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Inter-Arab Affairs

Maghreb Union Leaders Meet in Tunis for Summit

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives

LD2001133990 Tunis Radio

[Editorial Report] Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 20 January begins carrying a live relay on the arrival of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi at Tunis Carthage Airport. A reporter points out he has arrived to attend the Arab Maghreb Union summit. The reporter says Al-Qadhdhafi was welcomed by President Ben Ali, Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, and other personalities. Al-Qadhdhafi and President Ben Ali then proceed to the airport's VIP lounge, where Al-Qadhdhafi was interviewed by a radio correspondent.

Mauritanian President Not Attending

LD2201095790 Kuwait KUNA in English 0720 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, Jan 22 (KUNA)—The Mauritanian president Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya will not participate in the summit of Arab Maghreb Union due to open Monday in the Tunisian capital, Mauritanian Foreign Minster Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba said here last night.

Baba, in a statement to reporters after his meeting with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Bel Ali, said the Mauritanian president's absence was due to "difficult conditions", adding that he will chair his country's delegation to the summit deliberations.

Though the Mauritanian chief diplomat did not explain Taya's absence, observers here said it was due to his wife's death three days ago.

The Arab Maghreb Union comprises Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia.

Summit Agenda Outlined

LD2101135290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, leaves Algiers before noon today for Tunis to attend the Arab Maghreb countries summit.

The foreign ministers of the five Maghreban countries conducted a meeting in Tunis yesterday evening to prepare the documents which will be put to the leaders. The radio station in Tunis has more details:

[Passage omitted] The foreign ministers last night conducted a closed working session. Media sources speculated on the motive for conducting this session, considering the Ministerial Council had convened on 12 and 13 January and ratified several recommendations and a draft for a final communique. It was thought the meeting was called to resolve outstanding issues. We put forward this proposition to authoritative sources following the meeting, and they replied the purpose of the meeting was to put the final touches to the recommendations and working papers that had been prepared by the ministers during their meetings 12 and 13 January. The points encompassed in the working agenda, which will be put to the summit tomorrow, were reviewed point by point. The agenda consists of six points:

A. To assess the work of the union since the date of its foundation;
B. To inaugurate the general secretariat of the union, the consultative council, the judicial board, and the specialist ministerial committees;
C. To consider the future of relations with other international and regional blocs;
D. To define the union's action program during the period of the presidency of Tunisia;
E. To appraise the Arab and international situation; and
F. To consider international developments

We should like to remind you the foreign ministers have prepared a preliminary draft for the final communique which will include, among other things, issues relating to strengthening relations between the states of the union and consultation and coordination of policies concerning regional and international issues. Among the recommendations also is the convening of the ministerial council once every 2 months, with the aim of regularly and effectively monitoring the decisions of the presidential councils. The ministers also drew up an agenda for the meetings of the sectorial committees: Each committee is to meet in a country [as heard] during the first third of this year.

Leaders Hold Preparatory Talks

LD2101230190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] After the warm welcome accorded to the leaders of the Arab Maghreb this afternoon, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali hosted at Essaada Palace tonight a dinner banquet in honor of the Maghreb leaders. First the leaders of the Arab Maghreb Union states held preparatory talks which dealt, according to informed sources, with the draft political statement to which the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union devoted their attention as they put the finishing touches to it yesterday before it is presented before the Arab Maghreb Union summit. [passage omitted]

With regard to tomorrow's program, the summit proceedings will open at 1100. At about 1400 the leaders of the Arab Maghreb Union will go out in the streets of the Tunisian capital where they will be accorded a popular welcome.

Moreover, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali made a statement to APS. In reply to a question on the actions that will be given priority for consolidating the process of building the Maghreb, President Ben Ali said Tunisians, who like their brothers in the Arab maghreb are aspiring to live in a unified Maghreb entity, will do their utmost

to push forward the building process. If the Zeralda summit opened the way to the unity of the Maghreb, the Marrakech summit made it possible to lay down the structures of the Arab Maghreb Union. We must now create specialized ministerial committees and make sure that their actions carry the maximum effectiveness.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali added that Tunisia has always supported the idea of establishing an Arab Maghreb without borders. In this context, the free movement of property and people and the adoption of a Maghreb identity card are considered two of the top priorities we must undertake to give concrete form, with a view to creating better (?cohesion) between the states and the people of the Maghreb. At the economic level, President Ben Ali went on to say, our main concern is to try to achieve integration between our countries, develop our exchanges and make them balanced, and create a unified economic front when dealing with other parties.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Threatens PLO To Abandon Peace Strategy

LD2001214990 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has warned the Palestine Liberation Organization will abandon its current peace strategy and resort to other means if the deadlock concerning the resolution of the crisis in the region persists due to Israel's intransigence and rejection of all peace efforts.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said he will call for convening of a session of the Palestine National Council to adopt the appropriate stance in the event of continuation of the freeze and Israel's rejection of peace proposals. In this respect, he pointed out the Middle East situation then would become dangerously explosive.

In a statement to the magazine [word indistinct] AL-DIRASAT AL-FILASTINIYYAH—published in French—in Paris today, he expressed his hope an international conference on peace in the Middle East would be conducted during this year, after a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue which would pave the way for this.

Brother Abu-'Ammar affirmed that Europe bears a special responsibility toward the situation in the Middle East and a solution of the conflict in that region in light of its interests there and how the situation in the Middle East affects it. He urged the states of Western and Eastern Europe equally to play an effective role in finding an apropriate solution to the crisis in the region.

Affirms Commitment to Strategy

JN2101094090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Muscat, 21 Jan (WAKH)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has said the PLO will continue its current peace strategy. He stressed that the PLO is the party to decide the type of battle and how to conduct the fight.

In a statement published today by the Omani newspaper AL-WATAN, 'Arafat said that the Palestinian intifadah will continue despite its daily human and material losses and despite Israel's intransigence.

'Arafat warned against the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and said: The additional Jews do not threaten the Palestinian people only but the entire Arab nation; the aim is to establish Greater Israel.

'Arafat called on the Arab nation to confront these Jews and their destiny before the danger becomes uncontrolled.

On Palestinian-Syrian relations, 'Arafat said there had been meetings between the two sides recently. He stressed that the PLO favors normal relations with Syria.

'Arafat praised his talks with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman and said that they covered several important Palestinian, Arab, and international issues, including means to support the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories.

Discussing the Palestinian intifadah, the Palestinian president said the intifadah will continue until the Palestinian flag flies over holy Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian state. He pointed out that the proclamation of the Palestinian state has had an impact on the entire world. It suffices that it became a good example emulated in Eastern Europe. [sentence as received] He said so far, the Palestinian state has been recognized by 117 countries, twice as many as the number of countries that recognize Israel.

He said the intifadah losses have so far amounted to 56,000 wounded, 6,500 disabled, 1,034 martyrs, and 5,500 cases of miscarriages and blindness and paralysis in children as a result of the use of poisonous gases. The occupation authorities have also detained 66,000 Palestinians. However, he added, the intifadah will continue until victory.

When asked how long bullets would continue to be confronted with stones, 'Arafat said we have not yet taken a decision to use arms, but the Israeli military escalation and the crimes against our people places the option of using arms directly before us.

On the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and East Europe, 'Arafat said Shamir has admitted the immigrants will be settled in the West Bank and Gaza; this "Greater Israel" is their dream, he said.

'Arafat added that this is happening thanks to the biased U.S. position toward Israel. The United States, he pointed out, increased its assistance to Israel by $600 million this year to settle the immigrants, while it cut $18 million from the budget of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

We are currently facing 3.5 million Jews who are occupying all of Palestine and parts of Lebanon and Syria. The new immigrant Jews have come to fight the Arab nation; they have come to settle in Greater Israel, he said.

On the Palestinian-U.S. [as received] dialogue and Palestinian-U.S. contacts, 'Arafat said we insist that the dialogue be held with a delegation representing the PLO and have an open agenda that includes the subject of elections. As regards Palestinian-U.S. contacts, they are moving in a vicious circle in light of the U.S. bias toward Israel.

Salah Khalaf: U.S. Dialogue at 'Dead End'

LD2101210190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1903 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 21 Jan (KUNA)—Salah Khalaf, member of Fatah Central Committee, praised the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, which started its 3d year, and described it as strong and solid in spite of all the Israeli oppression of our people there.

In a news conference tonight at the Palestinian embassy in Kuwait, he said that Shamir's claims about the Israelis' coexistence in the [territories of the] uprising are unrealistic, especially as the enemy's authorities have arrested numerous Palestinian strugglers and intellectuals within the occupied territories, with Faysal al-Husayni at their forefront. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian official announced that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has reached a dead end. He pointed out that the PLO during the past period has given a lot in spite of its conviction that these concessions will not achieve any results. He pointed out that the most important of these concessions was accepting the UN Resolution No 242.

He said that the United States has opened the channels of dialogue with the Palestinians through Egypt. He described such dialogue as "shy" because it cannot shoulder the consequences of a direct dialogue. He pointed out that the current dialogue is carried out in a personal capacity, because it "will not lead to any results, especially after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has presented his vague peace plan."

He added that what is required at this stage is to submit a list of the names of the Palestinians in order to form the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue within the framework of the peace efforts. He pointed out that this requirement would invalidate the basis of the establishment of the PLO. Khalaf excluded the existence of any power which could form the Palestinian delegation, except the Palestinian forces. He said that it has never happened in history that the occupiers have formed a delegation to negotiate peace with them.

He stressed that at this stage and under these circumstances, the Palestinian action will concentrate on working within the occupied territories to influence those Israeli forces, which wish peace, instead of concentrating on the current dialogues.

Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] called on the Arab states to hold an emergency summit conference to discuss the subject of the rapid changes being witnessed by our world today at such an unprecedented speed. He warned the Arab states against ignoring these changes, especially those taking places in the Eastern bloc countries "because the wind will one day blow on them." He added that the PLO supports the democratic path and takes into account the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of the East European states. He categorically denied all the Israeli claims that Palestinians took part in the fighting in Romania in order to protect former President Nicolae Ceasescu. He said Arab and Palestinian students studying at Romanian universities and institutes were victims of the same crimes which the people of Romania were subjected to, and that the number of these students is 4,000.

Salah Khalaf pointed out that the PLO is against the Soviet Jews' immigration because it harms the Arab, pan-Arab security, and greatly disturbs the (?Arab) balance of power in all its aspects, because the Israeli plans aim at settling them in the West Bank and Ghaza. He pointed out that the Soviet Union can put matters in their true perspective and underline its interests in bringing about the changes and reforms without harming the interests of its Arab friends, especially that the PLO rejects what is currently taking place in Armenia and Azerbaijan because it is not in the Soviet Union's interest. He expressed hope that this crisis will be over as soon as possible.

The Palestinian official stressed that the organization is working hard to consolidate and stregthen Arab relations including Palestinian-Syrian relations. He pointed out that that suspended issue will be resolved in the near future. He said that the organization has also supported the Al-Ta'if accord on resolving the Lebanese crisis and that it has urged that the military option should not be the only way out of the crisis and that there should be a united Arab stand vis-a-vis that issue.

He added that the organization will discuss in the next few days the idea of convening the Palestine National Council, in light of the statement made recently regarding the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, to assess Palestinian action in the coming stage as a way out of the present situation.

At the end of the conference, Khalaf stressed that the organization will work to strengthen its national unity and promote Palestinian struggle action, including military action, outside the Palestinian uprising areas so that it will be able to confront Israeli schemes aimed at settling Palestinians in southern Lebanon and eastern Jordan.

Muragha Backs Jordan-Based Anti-Israel Operation

JN2101170090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], leader of the Fatah Uprising Movement, has voiced support for launching anti-Israeli military operations from Jordanian territory. In a statement to the Beirut newspaper AL-LIWA', Abu-Musa said such operations should be launched from any place available to us, be it Jordan, Syria, or Egypt.

PLO's Hurani Predicts 'Civil Disobedience'

JN2201103090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Doha, 22 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abdallah Hurani has announced that this year will witness a big development and qualitative change in the intifadah in the occupied territory. He noted that the intifadah will move from the stage of resistance in which stones, fire bombs, and confrontations are used into the stage of comprehensive civil disobedience in the face of occupation. In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published here today, Hurani affirmed that the intifadah will continue to implement its militant program as the Israeli enemy is certain that the continuation of its occupation of the Palestinian territory is not possible, and consequently it will withdraw its forces and leave.

The Palestinian official denied what has been said regarding differences in opinion and stand between the Hamas Movement in the occupied territory and the PLO. He said: There is no difference in viewpoints. A national democratic dialogue was held between Hamas and Fatah. In the wake of this dialogue, it has been decided to include Hamas leaders in the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah.

With regard to the American stand on the developments in the Palestine question and the intifadah, Hurani criticized the U.S. policy on the Palestine question and described it as biased toward Israel. He said that the American stand supports Israel and tries to save it from the present impasse resulting from the intifadah. He expressed disappointment at the stalemate in the Palestinian-American dialogue and the lack of progress in the American stands vis-a-vis the Palestine question and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

'State of Palestine' Opens Embassy in Oman

JN2101125490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Muscat, 21 Jan (WAKH)—The Sultanate of Oman has decided to open an embassy of the state of Palestine in the Sultanate.

In a statement today, the Omani Foreign Ministry said the decision was made to support the wise policy followed by the Palestinian president in handling the Palestine question and the peaceful Palestinian intifadah in the occupied Arab territories.

The statement said the decision was the culmination of consultations and talks held during Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the Sultanate of Oman 20-21 January.

Oman urged the world community to provide the necessary political support for the parties concerned in the Middle East problem in their wide-ranging international consultations and contacts in the interest of peace and security in the region.

Egypt

Tripartite Meeting Date To Be Announced Soon

NC1901191090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1708 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Washington, 19 Jan (MENA)—Highly-placed diplomatic sources in the U.S. capital have told MENA that the date for the tripartite meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state is expected to be announced before the end of this month. The purpose of the meeting is to prepare for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

The sources told the MENA correspondent in Washington that the intensive consultations which Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and other senior U.S. Administration officials over the past 4 days have boosted the joint U.S. and Egyptian efforts in this respect.

The sources reported that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid delivered a paper to the U.S. secretary of state during their first meeting on Tuesday which included ideas aimed at achieving progress toward convening the tripartite meeting before moving toward holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The sources said that these ideas dealt with several issues, most importantly the principles governing selecton of the Palestinian delegation that will participate in the dialogue with the Israelis. The ideas also dealt with the issues that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations will presumably discuss in their capacity as the main parties to the conflict and the manner in which such preliminary steps can be linked with subsequent stages of the peace process in order to attain a comprehensive settlement.

The sources noted that the U.S. secretary of state delivered a copy of these Egyptian ideas to Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin when he met with him on 18 January before the latter's return to Israel. He asked him to convey the ideas to the Israeli Government. It is expected that an Israeli viewpoint, in light of these ideas and the recent contacts and messages between the United States and Israel, will be conveyed to Baker.

The sources said it is likely that during the visit which Israeli Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will make to Cairo in the next few days, the positions of the various parties will become clearer, thus making it possible to reach a definite outcome immediately afterwards and to set a date for the meeting of the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state. It is assumed that this meeting will be held in Washington.

The sources stressed that they agree with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's announcement during his visit to the U.S. capital that succeeding in beginning a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue will be a really important achievement and a major step forward for the peace process.

It has also been learned that the final meeting between Dr 'Abd-al-Majid and James Baker today was devoted to reviewing various ideas and possibilities connected with the peace process in addition to economic issues of interest to Egypt, particularly as the Egyptian viewpoint which was conveyed to the U.S. officials during these talks involved political implications of clear significance that must not be disregarded in remedying the economic situation in Egypt.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Meeting With Baker

NC2001230390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Before leaving Washington for New York, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met for the second time with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and discussed efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. Following the meeting, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid expressed cautious optimism regarding James Baker's efforts to hold a tripartite meeting in Washington with the foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt, and Israel.

Asked if the differences of opinion between the two sides were closer, 'Abd-al-Majid said yes, but he did not elaborate. Voice of America said that U.S. officials hope the tripartite meeting will be held this month.

Mubarak Adviser on U.S. Talks

JN2101085690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Manama, 21 Jan (WAKH)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, adviser to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, has commented on the talks held between the Egyptian delegation headed by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and U.S. officials. He said the talks made "some progress" in the issues discussed, including the convening of a three-way meeting in Washington among the foreign ministers of Egypt, the United States, and Israel to pave the way for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo.

In a statement published here today by the Bahrain-based AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, Dr al-Baz said the Middle East peace process is going through a delicate stage.

He declined to give details on how obstacles to the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue could be overcome from the Egyptian, Palestinian, or U.S. viewpoints.

He emphasized that the Egyptians did not carry a formal message to Washington but conveyed the Palestinian side's views and position on the question of the dialogue.

Asked how the Palestinian side envisages progress in the process, Dr al-Baz said the Palestinian view is that the peace process should be integrated and lead to the international conference with the participation of all Arab countries, the Security Council's five permanent member states, and the two parties to the conflict.

He expressed the belief that the points of difference between the Palestinians and Israel concern the two basic issues in the dialogue: the agenda and the formation of the Palestinian delegation. It is known that Israel wants the agenda to be confined to the subject of elections in the occupied territories, while the Palestinian side insists on its right to raise whatever subjects it wishes.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets With Perez de Cuellar

NC2001230290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1724 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] New York, 20 Jan (MENA)—Today UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar received Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at his private residence in Manhattan. MENA has learned that 'Abd-al-Majid briefed the UN secretary general on the results of his talks with U.S. officials in Washington on propelling the peace process in the Middle East. They also discussed Egypt's efforts to convene a successful tripartite meeting with the U.S. secretary of state and the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers. At the meeting they will agree on steps for holding elections in the occupied Arab territory in order to comprehensively settle the Palestinian problem. The talks also dealt with recent developments in the occupied territory and the UN secretary general's efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Earlier, during a 5-day trip to Washington 'Abd-al-Majid held a series of talks with U.S. officials on the peace process and on Egyptian-U.S. relations. He will leave New York on Sunday [21 January] for Cairo.

AL-AHRAM Notes 'Stagnation' in Peace Process

NC1501074990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2237 GMT 14 JAN 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM expresses regret at the U.S. stand which puts the blame for stagnation in the peace process on the Palestinian side and equates its position with the intransigent stand of the Israelis.

In its commentary tomorrow, Monday, AL-AHRAM says: We consider this an obvious injustice to the Palestinian position, which appears very flexible and malleable in comparison with the procrastinating Israeli stand.

The paper points out that the truth is that U.S. anger over the failure to make any progress, however slight, toward the holding of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo is mainly directed against Israel. Washington holds Israel almost entirely responsible for the stagnation in the situation because of the obduracy of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

AL-AHRAM points out that Washington has started referring to the situation in terms which indicate that it has despaired of this situation. The U.S. State Department has emphasized that if Washington's current efforts to convene a tripartite meeting among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the United States fail, this would not be because of the incompetence of U.S. officials. This means, the paper says, that the U.S. Administration has completely despaired of providing momentum to the peace process in the area.

AL-AHRAM then says: Israel has started propagating the idea that both the Palestinians and the Israelis are responsible for this stagnation. Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the two superpowers blame both sides, that they will wash their hands of them in the end, and that they will say if the Palestinians and Israelis do not act to narrow the gap between them then they can go to hell.

3 Companies To Undertake Projects in Libya

NC1601074790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Libya have reached agreement that 3 Egyptian companies will undertake projects involving land reclamation, well drilling, and dam construction in Libya. The cost of the projects to be undertaken by these companies totals 100 million Libyan dinars. Work on the projects will begin in February and March with the assistance of Egyptian manpower, in accordance with the agreement on joint projects reached between President Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports today that agreement was reached between Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, and 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, Libyan secretary of the general people's committee for agrarian reform and land reclamation, on transferring 50 percent of the Egyptian workers' wages as is done with international companies and on transferring the net profits of the Egyptian companies to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Oil Official Announces Price Increase

NC1501170290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Egypt has decided to raise the price of its oil by 75 cents per barrel effective today. A statement to this effect was made here today by Hammad Ayyub, deputy chairman of the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation [EGPC] for foreign trade, following a meeting by the pricing committee headed by EGPC Chairman Hamad al-Banbi. The oil prices will be as follows:

Gulf of Suez and Ra's al-Bahhar crude: $19.5 per barrel.
Bala'im crude: $18.65 per barrel.
Badran crude: $17.5 per barrel.
Gharib crude: $17.2 per barrel.

Muslim Protesters Call For Trial of Zaki Badr

NC1901193890 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Hundreds of Egyptian Muslim mujahidin gathered outside a Cairo mosque after Friday prayers today and called for Zaki Badr, the Egyptian regime's sacked interior minister, to be arrested and tried.

News agencies reported the gathering took place while security forces observed the scene. There have been no reports on possible clashes between the Egyptian regime's security forces and the Muslim mujahidin demonstrators.

Libya

Basic People's Congresses Agenda Detailed

LD1801153490 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] The Basic People's Congresses [BPC] will begin their second ordinary session on 20 January.

Their agenda includes a number of articles that are detailed as follows:

Article 1

A. People's revolution against itself. [as heard]
B. To followup implementation of the revolutionary program.

Article 2

A. To followup the implementaton of the BPC's resolutions drafted during the General People's Congress 15th ordinary meeting.
B. To followup the implementation of budgets in 1989.
C. To discuss the report of the people's follow up body.
D. To discuss the report of Libya's Central Bank.

Article 3: Budgets.

A. To prepare the 1990-91 general budget.
B. To prepare the 1990-91 exports balance.

Article 4: General report.

A. Reports of general companies and institutions.
B. Report on the great man-made river.
C. Report on the Jihad Fund.
D. Report on the Social Security Fund.

Article 5: Questions.

Article 6: General issues.

A: To discuss recommendations of youth meetings.
B. To help large families.

Article 7: Laws.

A. Memo regarding the amendment of law 7 of 1984 on the organization of people's congresses.
B. Memo on the law related to the organization of trade unions and vocational bonds.
C. Memo on the law of the people's congresses.
D. Memo on the law on the organization of the people's followup committee.
E. Memo on the education and vocational training law.
F. Memo on solicitors' law.
G. Memo on the issuance of legislative decrees on the organization of issues of planning, information, and measurement.
H. Memo on amendment to law 13 of 1981 related to social security.
I. Memo on security matters.
J. Memo on issues of communication and telecommmunication matters.
K. Memo on the law related to drugs and narcotics.
L. Memo on the law of coastal regions.
M. Memo on the publication of tax regulations.
N. Memo on health insurance.

Article 8: Foreign Policy:

A. Review of the results of visits by the brother leader to friendly and fraternal countries.
B. Review of the results of visits by presidents of friendly and fraternal countries to the Great Jamahiriyah.
C. Review of reports of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.
D. Review of the Palestinian issue and support for the revolution of stones.
E. Arab Libyan-Egyptian meetings and contacts.
F. Arab Libyan-Chadian relations.
G. To adopt international agreements and treaties signed between the Great Jamahiriyah and other countries during 1989.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses People's Congress 19 Jan

LD2001121390 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2024 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Speech by leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the "masses of the Basic People Congresses" on 19 January; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Good evening, dear brothers. Let the members of the Secretariat be closer here, as I may need one of them.

First, I congratulate you on the occasion of the convening of the people's congresses in their important session, after which the General People's Congress convenes to decide the internal and the external policies of the Jamahiriyah for this year. The people's committees will implement what the people's congresses decide in their present session, which will be formulated in the General People's Congress which meets, God willing, in the first month of the spring, which used to be called March, April, and May. Also, I congratulate you on the spread of the Jamahiriyah theory in the world, now that it has been ascertained that we live in the era of the masses marching on authority. The people, whom it was thought possible to rule through parties, parliaments,

and classes, have awakened and decided to rule themselves. And if they have now headed toward the multiparty system, this is only a step toward the jamahiri system of government. The multiplicity of parties is an indicator toward people's congresses, or to the last step but one before the creation of people's authority.

You know, brothers, that peoples have made great sacrifices and suffered grave losses in order to reach power; rather in order to get closer to authority. We have reached authority thanks to the revolution and through peaceful change, and consequently we should not abandon the Jamahiriyah, abandon people's authority, because the whole world is gradually turning to a jamahiri system. We must also hold on to the society of partners, not wage-earners, because the world is also turning from the economic aspect to the system of partners instead of wage-earners. [passage omitted]

I hope to find in the agenda of the Basic People's Congresses what shows this, what tends to affirm people's power. This agenda was worked out by you at a previous session. You, the congresses and committees, had asked that laws be amended, that new laws be introduced, and it is the congresses and committees that placed this agenda before me. I will not review it; not all of it concerns me, it concerns you, but I want to dwell on a few points on the agenda, and I also have a few other words I want to say. Please pay attention to this because it concerns our life and our fate.

However, in quickly broaching the agenda, one sees memoranda submitted to the people's congresses for the introducing of new necessary laws. These laws—if the sound is not clear tell me—one of these laws concerns the organizing of the people's congresses, and the other concerns the people's committees. The aim behind these two laws is in reality the affirmation of people's power. I have been pleased to find these two laws submitted to the people's congresses.

As we have stressed in the past, the people's committees, elected by the people, should have prerogatives and power to assume their responsibilities. This means that they must assume coordination and responsibility toward committees below them. From the General People's Committee downwards until the last people's committee at the base, committees must be controlled and brought to account. They must be subjected to coordination and even to sanctions from the committee above. You are introducing resolutions, and the General People's Committee finds difficulties in seeing them carried out by the ad hoc people's committees, by the local people's committees, and the General People's Committee cannot do anything about it because it is not empowered to impose sanctions on the secretary of the committee or the committee or a member thereof, etc.

The people have elected committees, and these committees are answerable to one another from top to bottom. The law in question gives a mandate, requires that a mandate be given to the people's committees to assume their responsibilities in full and implement the decisions of the people's congresses, starting from the top committee and ending with the bottom one. This is clearly shown in the memorandum submitted for debates.

This is really very important, so that the people's committees be strong, and so that the people's committees have the power and mandate to implement decisions. Consequently, they have to be endowed with the prerogative to sanction, follow up, and bring to account bodies at a lower level. The same thing applies to the secretaries of the people's congresses. A secretariat at a higher congress is endowed by the Secretariat of the General People's Congress with prerogatives over secretariats of the basic congresses at a lower level. There must be prerogatives, follow up, and sanctions which determine their actions—presence and follow up.

These two laws are really very important. Laxity, and incapacity of the people's committees to carry out the decisions of the people's congresses, are due to the fact that these committees lack prerogatives which [enable them to] sanction each other, and because the secretary is not endowed with prerogatives which enable him to sanction members working with him. We experienced this and had to pay a price. What is required now is to determine these committees and these prerogatives, and also those of the secretariats of the congresses.

Another important memo concerning social security. I have spoken about this issue so many times. I want every person in this country to be secure. [passage omitted]

Memorandum concerning secrity: We said people's security: You decide; do you want police? Do you want to take charge of security? No one is presenting you with a thing. Security should be this way. This is submitted to you. You say a car was stolen, the number of misguided people has increased, the number of ignoble people has grown, the number of immoral people has grown, someone trespassed against another's yard, one was robbed, one had his car broken into, another had his safe broken into. You want security, you decide. Say we want police with salaries, stations, handcuffs, prisons. You shoulder it with responsibilities and give it powers; it has bullets, rifles, guns, has everything. This is normal. If you decide on this, so be it. Some of you become police—fine. If you say that this is a society of the masses and we are all responsible for security, organize it—draw up a draft plan on how to organize it, how every street can secure itself. There could be a number of volunteers every week, every month, or permanently, with a salary, reward or voluntary, carrying an insignia and a card. This means that security would prevail in every quarter because those would be people to whom we do not give a salary. You cannot have a very large number of policemen who you give salaries to at one time. But people's security facilitates this task. There will be people who get rewards; some will do voluntary shifts, and this is his duty. Security would then prevail in every alley, every street, every village, every oasis, every road. You will find the people responsible for security: today a

thousand in this street, after a month they hand over responsibility to another thousand, etc. You are free to decide what you want.

Memorandum on the issuing of a law on health security: You are free: Do you want health to be the responsibility of the state, which provides free treatment and medicine? Then decide so, but this costs million. You decide whether you can afford it or not, so you will not be told one day: I have no medicine for you. Go and buy it. You will say: why, when we have decided on free treatment? Free treatment is all right when the state has money, but when it has no money it cannot treat you for free. Today we provide treatment because we have oil. If there is no oil tomorrow you may not be able to afford free treatment. If you want to pay for treatment, decide. Say we want hospitals like—what is the name of the one on the Al-Fatih Road? [Someone responds "Ndir"]. People call it Ndir Hospital. Ndir exploited you and built a hospital carrying his name. People go to Ndir hospital because it charges. Fine, make all hospitals charge for treatment. [passage omitted]

Or you can say we treat, examine, take X-rays and tell you what is wrong for free, but write the treatment on paper for us to pay for it. Or you can say: Doctors, examine us for free and give us the medicine for free. You are free, decide it, but keep in mind whether or not you can afford it. The word "free" costs money.

It is tabled in this way. Health insurance means that everyone pays money first, just like paying for petrol or something else, and thus you become insured. You go and get treatment without paying, but after 2, 3 or 4 months, you run a bill. You are then asked to pay your account, just like a telephone bill or something similar.

There is no way out: In most countries of the world, health care and education cost money, they are not free of charge. Even in the socialist countries where health care was free of charge, you find that it is not free of charge any more. He who has money pays, and he who has no money does not get medical treatment. Education used to be free there, and this is finished; in Eastern Europe education is not free of charge anymore. He who has money gets education, and he who has none does not receive any education. [passage omitted]

You may decide that education from beginning to end must be free at the expense of the state, and no citizen should pay toward it. You can decide this, you are free to do so, but this would be at the expense of the state. You should see first whether or not your state has money.

I have always told you that everything is tied to oil revenues and this is grave. As you know, the price of oil tumbled from $40 a barrel to $5 at one time. The barrel used to cost $40 and fell to $5. How then can one tie up one's life to such a thing, saying that medical treatment must be free, and this and that thing free, and I do not pay taxes, I do not pay duty stamps, I do not pay this and that, and then one finds out that the selling price of oil falls from $40 to $5? You are free. Think about it.

There is an important point on the agenda which we have not mentioned; yes, the bar. [passage omitted]

Every citizen is free, but a court in a jamahiri society must consist of a judge, a prosecutor, a solicitor, and a policeman who carries out the sentence of the court. You enter the court, and just as you find in front of you the prosecutor who is against you and the judge who is to judge you, and the policeman who implements the sentence, you should find a solicitor as part of the court composition. This is justice. Whether it exists elsewhere or not, this is justice, and the world is inevitably arriving at this. [passage omitted]. But you are free; if you do not accept the solicitor of the court, saying that you have a better fee-paying solicitor, you will find a solicitor with an office in the street to whom you pay money. You are free to do so.

Let us pass on to other points. Gentlemen, this society is a free one. You hear of the free world. The West brags about being the free world led by America, leader of the free world, as they say. What does free world mean? Does it mean that which is decolonized? No, not that which means decolonized, because even the other world, opposed to them, and which is not considered as free, is not colonized. It is independent. What does free world mean then? Free world refers to the political and economic freedom within society. That you are free to set up a company. You are free not to work. You are free to exploit others. You are free to go on strike. You are free to be exploited. The company is free to make you redundant. The company is free to send 1 million workers on the street to starvation. They are free to stage demonstrations against it. You are free to create a party.

Despite the fact that they call themselves free, it is forbidden in their constitutions to create a fascist party, like that of Mussolini, or a Nazi party. Nazi means National Socialism. The word Nazi, which you thought was dangerous, means the National Socialist Party. It is forbidden to create a National Socialist party in all the Western world, from West Germany to America. It is forbidden in their constitutions. It is a crime to create a party. The same applies to fascism, which means National Socialism in Italy. It is forbidden. It is forbidden to stage anything against Israelis. It is forbidden to defend the Arabs. It is forbidden to spread Islam. [passage omitted]

There is a communist party in America. People are free to create a communist party, but it will not accede to power. No way. Possibilities are with money, in the hands of the 400 families, whom we have mentioned, who rule America. Despite all this, you are told that you are free, and you can create a communist party.

What matters in this Western society is the economic side, not the political one. The freedom of society means the noninterference of the state. What does free mean? It means that the state does not interfere in anything. [passage omitted] The state or society they would not

consider free is that where the state interferes to say that this activity is allowed, and that activity is forbidden. [passage omitted]

As for the jamahiri society, it is the other facet of freedom. It is truly free. We are equal with them as far as freedom in society. We are a free jamahiri society, and they are a free society. Maybe someone would say there is not much difference. Maybe they are rich and we are poor. It is possible. [passage omitted]

The only difference between them and us is that they have exploitation and we do not. [passage omitted] You Libyans here in a jamahiri society can set up private companies, private partnerships; you can do individual private work in any domain, professions or production, in farming, in industry, in services, in everything. You can have a private clinic, a private school; you can do anything you fancy, but the difference between them and us is that here there is no exploitation. We cannot give the possibilities, money, capital, a licence to one person and ask him to employ others. We give licenses to all the others, society gives them licenses, but not to an individual person to employ others. An individual is given a license to work on his own, that is all. [passage omitted]

Capitalists join together and form a capitalist joint-stock company because they are capitalists. When you hear of a joint-stock company in the West, this means rich capitalists have set up a company. In the jamahiri system you are free to set up companies, but only by poor people. That is people's participation. If you want to be shareholders in companies in Libya, do so. Say we, the Libyans, are responsible for the Market Company, whether it makes a loss or a profit. Each one pays a dinar, for instance, and we distribute the profit to you. Or you say let a thousand Libyans bring us goods. The profit and the loss will go to the thousand Libyans. In housing, say, set up 10 housing companies owned by 10,000 Libyans; if they make a profit or a loss, that will be the lot of the 10,000 Libyans. Or if it it owned by all of us, if they make a profit it is ours; if they lose, the loss is ours. You are free to decide what you want.

Why can it not be like the system in Eastern Europe? In Eastern Europe, the government owns everything and people work with the government. Companies are owned by the government. The government has the capital. People got fed up with this. They believed that this was fine, at least the government let them eat and drink. They were poor, but they were not hungry or unemployed. It fed them, provided them with water, treated them, educated them. All people were [words indistinct]. They, the people, said no, we do not want this system. We want freedom. Fine: tomorrow the government lifts its hand and says: Fine, decide for the country. You will soon see how education, health, transport will be. You have to pay for everything, or no one will know you. Before, governments undertook this. That is government capitalism.

In the West, there is capitalism of the individual, or a group of rich people. Here in Libya we have people's capitalism or socialism. My purpose is for you to reconsider your economic system, and I am giving you examples of this. In Libya, individuals come together and form a socialist joint-stock company. Individuals, the whole people, or a group of individuals. But there, capitalists set up capitalist joint-stock companies. Here it is a socialist company; there it is an exploiting company. [passage omitted]

Here in Libya, despite freedom, you cannot set up a company just at a stroke. Why? Because the people decide at the people's congresses that companies and partnerships are free, but we trace their policies for them: They must produce this or that product which the people need. The people do not need this toy or this balloon. He needs wheat, spare parts, clothes, mounts, medicine, education. You are free to set up companies that make these things available. Fifteen, 5 people, or just 1 person working for himself and not employing anyone else—1,000 Libyans are free to do this.

The people here at the people's congresses trace the policy of all companies. Out there in the capitalist world, no one lays down the policy of a company; you just pay taxes and that is it. They are bound to collapse. They do not collapse now because they are rich: On the one hand they have huge possibilities, and on the other hand they had stolen our resources, and they are still robbing them. Without our oil they might have collapsed; without our iron and raw materials in the Third World they would have collapsed. Furthermore, they are rich, but their collapse is inevitable. Such societies would not last. Making ice cream, for example; what for? You can make it in your own home.

Both the capitalist and the Jamahiri societies are free, but the former is exploitative and the latter is socialist. [passage omitted]

Exploitation is prohibited in Libya. You cannot exploit consumers or exploit people and do what you like with them. Let us start with shops. You decided on shops. Previously, those who wanted to have a shop would have gone to Morocco or Italy. The Libyan who wanted to have a shop would have gone anyway, because there exploitation is permitted. You exploit others; something is worth 5 dinars and you sell it for 50. You take away from the pockets of the simple-minded, the poor and helpless consumers, and contribute to your pocket. You become rich. As for the Libyan, he would say: What is this, brother? We buy it for 5 and sell it for 5. For whose benefit? For the benefit of all the people. It is not in the interest of those who make a profit as individuals to place their wealth in Libya.

Now that I have allowed shops to reopen again, you start screaming that what should cost 5 costs us 50. By God Almighty, I hope it will cost you even one billion. It was your decision. I am the one who, in fact, began such a move to allow shops to re-open because of your queues,

because public markets were a failure, clothes and commodities sold in them were merely second hands; God knows where they were imported from. Such and such commodities were missing from them; they were being hidden to be handed under the counter to friends. Well, you did not like the situation, so I said alright change it. Shops are not a taboo if you wanted them back. You went ahead and decided to allow shops to re-open. Now, however, you are again screaming: shops are very expensive! Now you are saying life is expensive in Libya because of the shops. You allowed them to re-open and you were free to do so.

You are like the people of East Europe. They believe, as I said in my lecture at the Institute of Political Science, that West Europe is colorful, it has skyscrapers, limousines, magnificent aircraft and nice clothes. They thought that he who jumps over the Berlin Wall would have something there for himself. However, as soon as he arrived there and looked at himself in the mirror they asked him to pay. He asked if he could wash his hands they said no you cannot do so unless you pay, take back your mark, you have to pay in dollars. He thought he could drive a Mercedes; when he could not, he returned back over the Wall. Then they regretted it: they said to themselves that they were in paradise.

Now, you also have come to the same conclusion; but only after you had destroyed your socialist institutions. You regret it too; you wished that the markets were still there, you wished you had accepted them, you wished that you had not destroyed them. Well, you are still free; if you want to go back to the market system, you are free to do so. If you want to follow this path, do so. [passage omitted]

The exploitative capitalist system does not enter Libya. It gets out of it, because there is no exploitation here. Those who are not capitalists, the poor, the disinherited, the workers, Egyptians, Tunisians, Malians, Nigerians, Africans, Chadians, the Sudanese, enter Libya and do not leave it. Why? Because they are not capitalists. They come to a place free from exploitation, where one can live with free medical care, free education. Somebody in need of a surgical operation and unable to have it done in his own country infiltrates into Libya. He shouts in a street and right away he is taken to a hospital in Libya. [passage omitted]

By this I am trying to shed light on the type of property and economic activity in a jamahiri society, because since we undertook the revolution our aim has been to see that freedom is given to the Libyan people, but you brothers decide what you want. If you want free trade, then so be it. Freedom of trade means making goods available even with debts. Traders obtain debts on the security of their licence, their reputation and assets, on the hope of repaying their debts from the pockets of the consumers. [passage omitted]

True, free trade ensures the availability of goods, even with debts, but at the expense of the consumer and at the expense of all the assets and budget of the state. Consumer goods are not useful and not necessary. They serve for quick and plentiful profit. [passage omitted]

In a country with free trade, free capital, and free buying and selling without a socialist system and social justice, without consideration for the interest of the country, you cannot find useful things. No spare parts, no repair yards; they do not import working machinery. Have you ever seen a merchant importing a machine making spare parts? Never. You find goods which quickly come and go; ice cream for instance, sweets, chocolate. [passage omitted]

They do not import goods which last long; they import things that go quickly so that you ask for more. They shun importing lasting goods so that the capitalist company produces the same type of goods and continues to work and gain profits.

When a private capitalist company is set up for an individual it produces goods which are consumed by people on the same day and ask for more on the same day. You can make very thin glass so that it breaks quickly and after one month all the utensils sold are broken and there is demand for more and profit is realized. The company does this deliberately. [passage omitted]

As for a socialist joint-stock company, its policy is defined by the people who make the decisions, which are carried out by the specialized general people's committee. No company whose line is defined by the people, in Libya, can bring something that is not useful for the country. It cannot. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, rising prices are the characteristics of private trade. You say that prices have risen in shops; well, this is a characteristic of private trade. They raise prices. You cannot create private trade and change its nature. Private trade by nature raises prices. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qadhdhafi shown talking to someone who is not shown on the screen] The imports. The balance of imports for 1990-1991. Those items which come in that way. What is the budget allocated to them? One billion. It would not be fair if this billion worth of goods is brought to you by merchants. They will bring to you one billion and they will take from you five times as much. You are free to become partners with them. You are free, and you must decide what you want.

What have you got to say, Mr 'Umar [not further identified]?

[Reply indistinct]

There it is, goods worth one billion; goods which you import from abroad. You have to know who imports for you, and decide who would import for you. You have to make them bear responsibility, and you must bear responsibility. You cannot ask later "Why did he bring

in these goods?" Everything should be clear. Right and wrong should be clear. [passage omitted]

The other point is about you shouting that all subsidized goods have been taken by non-Libyan Arabs and that they have become expensive. I have statistics here which have come from the street; not from offices, but from the street. A bag of flour was selling for 7 dinars at the general peoples market, and this was the set price for it. You could find it in the street [market] for 20 dinars. This means from 7 to 20. If someone proposed to you that the price of flour should be raised from 7 to 20 dinars, hell would be raised the next day. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that economic freedom would mean exploitation, high prices, inflation and unemployment, unless there is a socialist system in this way—partnership, no one exploiting another. Socialism means justice.

I am telling you about such things because a few years ago I told about how medical treatment should be organized and you have yet to heed my advice. Well, I have to repeat myself—it could be construed as an intrusion on my part or trying to do something good, it does not matter—I must repeat what I have said about medical treatment—as the proverb says, may God not bless someone who deceived once but may God not bless you if the same person deceives you yet again. How could he deceive twice? You should have known better the second time! Well, you can understand this proverb, so let us heed it—I have told you.

Oh, brothers, the world has changed; we are living in a quite different era: you do not plow the soil by using camel, donkey, and a hoe, nor do you produce enough food for yourself. Flour and wheat are imported in accordance with international agreements. Your food and drinks are brought from overseas in accordance with import quotas. And when the maritime transportation company was unable to bring in wheat from France, or when we banned the charter French ships, you were left without bread. Look at yourselves. If you were left without bread it means that you did not secure your own food and every family did not think about itself. What do those farms, which we have been calling farms for food self-sufficiency, which we have created around town, mean then? They are there for you to cultivate enough food for yourself and your family.

You survive thanks to the bakery across the road which uses wheat imported from France. However, suppose wheat has not arrived to the bakery from France, there will be no bread then. And what will you do then? Go out protesting. You can only go out on a demonstration if something of yours is held by someone else. And as no one is holding anything on your behalf, how can you then go out on a demonstration? This is not a demonstration, this is just wailing. You have gone out wailing. You wail, I wail. You are wailing because you made an error. It is like someone who blinds himself with his own finger—he wails.

I have told you about medical treatment and I repeat yet again. I have told you should have a a type of ration card for essential things. You should have a card for them. I, name and forenames, have a family of so and so children. Then I can go to the public market and take sugar and wheat for 7 dinars instead of going somewhere else and pay 20 dinars. Then there is no need to worry that all is there. I can then take whatever quantity I need from these commodities cheaply on my book. I can not then sell it because I have only taken things in accordance with the number of members of my family. I should not buy from the street, the black market. He who buys from the street wrecks his own house. You are paying 2.5 dinars for something that is only worth 2. By Almighty God, how can you pay 20 dinars in the street for a vegetable that should only cost you 7 dinars? This is what has wrecked homes. [words indistinct]

If I am someone who happened to come from Chad, I have no book. Then if I want to buy flour I have to pay 20 dinar [words indistinct]. But if you are a citizen, you should remember that flour is being subsidized by the state for your sake. You should only pay the subsidized price by producing your book. Such commodities should only be sold upon the production of the book, and there should be no problem.

However, if someone comes from Niger, from Mali or from Chad—even a Libyan from the same street as you—they might come up to the shop or to the market and buy the same commodities, like wheat, sugar, tea, tomatoes, cooking oil, soap, and other subsidized commodities, cheaply. Some of them might have bought such commodities only to resell them again in the street, sell something he paid 7 dinars for, for 20. That is why the book is a must. The book is to organize matters and it is a civilized achievement. We must have it. The world is changing. If you cannot tolerate having one then you should not live in this world. Nomads no longer have a place in this world; the latter is no longer a jungle and it is no longer the same.

The globe is divided inch by inch; space is also divided inch by inch. In the old days no one would stop you if you wanted to travel abroad, no one would stop at every gate and ask you for your passport. Aircraft—before if someone had one he could fly the world non-stop. Now one cannot enter a foreign space unless the control tower gives permission. It might ask where you are from, what is the type of aircraft and its nationality, where are you going, what flying course should you take? It might ask you to wait for other aircraft and pay landing fees. The world has become like this and we had no hand in it. I wish it had stayed as it was. There is nothing we can do about it.

The book is a must. We must be organized. As a citizen I must have with me my book with my own particulars.

I must write in it wheat rations so I can buy it cheaply. If you do not want to buy you are free to not do so. If you do not want to have books then no one of you should come up to me and say: well, Tunisians came and took away subsidized commodities, Egyptians came and took away subsidized commodities. Well, as far as I am concerned let them take it; I do not, however, distinguish between Tunisians and Libyans. They are all Arabs. You were the ones who were making the fuss.

You are in a good and convenient situation. If you want to waste it, do so. I have told you: do these things, decide which kind of ownership you want. If you want to import for yourselves, your people's apparatuses will import for you. This will be cheap and after the [imported goods] get here, do not put them on the black market, issue cards, books and there will be no fear.

If you want brokers to import for you, why is brokerage a bad thing? To me it is not—you are ignorant, I am the one who knows—to me brokerage is not a bad thing. Brokerage is a trade which is recognized worldwide and is a ring in the chain of economic activity. If you want them [imported goods] through brokers, they will be expensive. You want everything to be imported for you.

By God, the Libyan people have decided, on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of the prophet—may God's peace and prayers be upon him—and in celebration of it and so as to go to paradise and in order that the Prophet will be pleased with us, to import for us, with a value of so many millions, kohl with which we want to blind the eyes of our children. Hospitals will open their doors quickly and the state of alert will be declared as thousands of children will be blinded.

Did the Libyan people decide this? They did not, it is you who allowed the brokers, who make quick profits on the occasion of the birth of the prophet. By God, has this got any relation with the prophet? This is business, an opportunity to make sinful profits. When is the anniversary of the birth of the prophet? It is soon, good heavens! Quick, go to Italy to get the kohl. Scandals—they apprehended four Libyans with bags full of kohl. Brothers, they said Libya is a terrorist state, and its citizens are carrying explosives. Only when the judge came, he told them that this was kohl. What is this kohl? He said they use this on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of the prophet. You just decided like this: sell it to me and that is it. [passage omitted]

Dr Miftah, did the people's congresses decide that on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet, we will have so many ships full of kohl? Is that so?

[Repaly indistinct]

Thus why is the country full of kohl? This is not a policy of the people. I do not blame the people because the people were also saying this is a bad thing. Their prayer at the House [of God] is nothing but whistling and clapping of hands. This is how God cursed pre-Islamic paganism. [passage omitted]

Commerce, O brothers, is a fundamental thing. If the state takes charge of it that is all right. Commerce is a question of life or death, as for the other things leave them to people. Leave every group to create a summer camp. As for gardens, every block of flats can build a garden, every quarter can build its own garden. [passage omitted]

All the things you can see are done by people at their own expense. One would say: look at these countries, look at how France looks after its people. No, it does not. These people look after themselves. Whoever dies, dies at the expense of his own family. Motorbikes that people have are hired from companies. Private companies enter into speculations and draw profit at the expense of these people [words indistinct] who might die or get something broken in case something happens when they hire these motorbikes or these airplanes.

You do see, indeed, all sorts of sports and many other things in the West, but these things are done by them [the people] not the government. The state has no part in these matters at all. [passage omitted]

I know what young people think, but I do not want everything to be official, official trade unions, official federations, official clubs, official youth, official childhood. All this should be popular. Let everything be popular. Youth are free to set up clubs, games, sports, trips, scouts. They are free to collect donations, to set up partnerships, to subscribe, and so on. [passage omitted] There are laws in the country. If they do something illegal, they would face trials. Otherwise, they are free. [passage omitted]

I am almost finished with the present issue. Before the conclusion, I would like to talk about the issue of elections [al-Tas'id], that of the people's committees. You are free either to start them now during this session and this agenda which will start tomorrow, or to hold other sessions to make decisions and start elections after the month of March, following the convening of the General People's Congress. My opinion—this is just a point of view—is that you give yourselves time to hold these elections, after bringing the present people's committees to account, holding the General People's Congress. Then everyone will have had an idea on whether or not this or that committee was good and beneficial. You would have had an idea on the committees' work and you would have judged them. Then, you could start elections. If you are to start elections, which I have been inciting you to do after the convening of the General People's Congress, you have to start to think about them as of now. [passage omitted]

One thing is illegal, though: tribal blocs. This cannot be beneficial. Why is it illegal? Because you could not benefit from it. Because when a dam is built on [name indistinct] river, I could not say that this dam belongs to my tribe. This action could not be beneficial to your tribe, and land belongs to all. When we set up farms, this one belongs to so and so from this tribe, and that other

one belongs to so and so from another tribe. Consequently, saying the dam belongs to your tribe could not be beneficial. You could not bring any benefit to your tribe. Those times are gone. [passage omitted]

Start now: If I were you, if you do not like the people's committees, you can change them all, break them into pieces, and start from scratch—the one who is useful will be appointed even if he is from the former committee, he will automatically be appointed. The one who is not useful will not be appointed. There is no harm. If this does not mess things up for you, that's it—having made judgments, declare that all the people's committees in Libya are considered dissolved when the next elections, after 2 months or so, begin. Keep whatever is useful from the present committees and change anything which is not useful.

It is my view that there should not be conditions according to which only qualified people can be elected at the grassroots level, at the lower level, that is, at the level of a branch of a Basic People's Congress. Average people, even those who cannot read or write, should be in these people's congresses. However, at the level of the qualitative General People's Committees and these specifications, effectively it is possible that the committee—the congress, sorry the committee—will start to take on serious responsibility and will need qualified people. At that point we need the graduates, the educated, the expert technician, the administrator, and so on. [passage omitted]

These conditions which were imposed on elections must be cancelled. The other condition is morals. There is a decline of morals in a disgraceful way. I am not bothered about an average citizen who works in his farm or shop; even if he walks on his hands and knees. However, for somebody who is chosen, is in charge of a responsibility, to have declining morals is a loathsome thing. [passage omitted]

There is a law in this country, which was issued when the revolution took place, which says that the one who gets drunk can definitely not be entrusted with leadership responsibility. You are free: if someone wants to get drunk, let him do so, but if you are entrusted with a responsibility you cannot get drunk at the expense of responsibility.

If you are unscrupulous in other matters such as using favoritism, mediation, corruption, and other social immorality, you then cannot shoulder your responsibility, you just cannot, I tell you. In other countries that are organized in this way, one cannot use the office telephone to ring one's family or one's fiancee or for other personal reasons. They tell you if you want to talk to your friends, you can use payphones. [passage omitted]

The people whom we appoint should have ethics and scruples—if they have no morals they should stay at home—ethics are very important, particularly during this phase. One finds an official who comes and starts playing card games—when will he draw plans for a company, or secretariat, or project? When will he start thinking about this project? When will he find time to study files? This person should not even have heard about card games—I do not know how such a person could appoint himself to do a job.

The one who is in charge should be immune from these things, he should not have social contacts at all, like a judge. The judge does not socialize with people, build up relationships with them because he is in charge of justice, and he rules amongst these persons according to this justice. In a known just system, the respectable judge walks alone in the street; he does not sit in a cafe where there are people, he does not visit friends nor does he play card games with them. He should tell them: please forgive me for behaving like this but I am in charge of a number of cases, and who knows who might appear before me in court one of these days. If such a thing happens I will be embarassed if the defendant starts asking me: how come yesterday you dined at my house and today you are giving me a sentence? These are the morals of the judge. Likewise, the morals of those in charge should be similar to those of a judge. [passage omitted]

There is another point: the employee's possession. Before we appoint any employee, either junior or senior, to any post such as the secretariat of a congress or committee or company or firm and so on, from the first day of his appointment, we should register his possessions: what type of house he owns, his farm if he has one, his car, his wife's jewelery, his bank account, all these things. This law of property exists in all countries. This is done so that nobody would be treated unjustly. One should record everything one owns. Then during his term of employment we should call him up and tell him: you have completed 1 year in this job, we should carry out checks, just like a medical checkup. [passage omitted]

These things constitute a revolution to the people against themselves. If we do them, they will effectively constitute a revolution and will give meaning to the people's authorities and we will decide our destiny. Naturally, you are free. Something else which might be strange—the last thing I will propose to you and will then say goodbye to you tonight. This is composed of two parts; sorry, the additional part is that the revolutionary committees, if you are to really carry out a people's regime, are necessary. However, these are not the revolutionary committees such as imprisonment, trial, aggression against people, boasting with a card—these are not the revolutionary committees, not my revolutionary committees.

The revolutionary committees are the guides of the popular masses, they are the ones which help them, they are the ones which people wish to be present everywhere, they are the ones which show (?the error) to the people and [would say] there is a danger in this of which you are not aware—I have no prerogatives. The revolutionary committees do not rule, they do not manage, they do not

terrorize people, they do not (?storm) houses. Those who did these things are bandits, not revolutionary committees, these are bandits. The revolutionary committees in the past period of storming and so on—the ones which attacked the bribed people and those who destroyed the people in the former period, put them to trial and eliminated them—should indeed be given medals. This is a revolutionary action which was necessary and without it the country would be now a wasteland.

However, now that the people's authority has been entrenched in this way, the presence of revolutionary committees cannot be avoided. The revolutionary committees are linked to people's authority. The revolutionary committees are not the ones which now have a bad image. The story of "fight the revolutionary committees and dissolve them" is an American preaching and is a reactionary one. The stray dogs and their sort are the ones who tell you to dissolve the revolutionary committees. For you to survive... [changes thought] If you want to do like America does, all right, be aware of where you are going. If America [word indistinct] know that you are heading for disaster. This tune of dissolve the revolutionary committees, God save us from the revolutionary committees; is said by the Americans, the reactionaries, and those who want this people to be destroyed—those who want to rule the people, set up parties and rule the people, those who steal the people's wealth and have some avid designs against this people. The revolutionary committee are the mind of the people and are necessary. Every people's congress should have a real revolutionary committee in it.

The strange thing which I am going to tell you, which you may not be expecting and with which I will conclude the talk, is that as for my colleagues and myself, you know, our situation differs even from that of the revolutionary committees. The members of revolutionary committees are individuals representing the people. It is possible for a secretary of a revolutionary committee or a secretary of a people's committee. [sentence as heard]

This is normal; however, this does not mean that the revolutionary committees rule. This is mentioned by the political sciences department: How a movement rules and how only some of its members have by accident the reins of power. Those are individuals of the people; however, my colleagues and I have no opportunity to be in a revolutionary committee or in as people's committee or a company. Our situation differs, we have separated authority from revolution. At the same time, you and the world drag us against our will in political, economic and social responsibilities. [passage omitted]

Libyans now have laws which they issued themselves and you can file a lawsuit immediately against anybody. If passing a castle, you can ask: "Whose castle is this?", one would reply: "It belongs to so and so", "So and so, who is poor, has a castle like this, he has (?cheated)—you can go to the police and the prosecutor's office, you can even not put your name down [meaning remain anonymous], I suspect so and so, he has a castle. You can do this at any police station. The case will go straight away to the prosecutor's office and the court and he—the one who has acquired the castle by illegal means—will be summoned and asked: "Where did you get this from?". The law "where did you get this from" exists.

Everyone has a vocation and has a vocational congress which provides him with his rights and defines his duties for him. Sovereignty and authority are practiced in the People's Congress and the People's Committee is responsible before him; however, to start putting serious responsibilities on our shoulders—we who have no power—this will not be the case beginning with this session, discuss this beginning tomorrow. [sentence as heard] The people must assume their responsibility fully. Our colleagues and I, who carried out the revolution, we will walk in the streets and no one should ask us: where are you going—because we snatched the power with our lives and our bravery destroyed the Americans, the English, the Italians, the police apparatuses and the monarchy, destroyed them all and gave the power to the people.

The people are free with this authority. This is our goal: only for the people to be free. We did not come to rule them; we have come to give them authority. They will rule themselves. After this, brothers, let us walk in the street and nobody should bother us or talk to us. If this situation does not please you and you want us to go to a foreign state and declare that we have adopted its nationality, all right, we will do so as of tomorrow. Tomorrow or the day after, I am going to the Tunis summit conference. Consider that I am going to it without any power. I have told them that when it is Libya's turn to chair the Arab Maghreb Union do not take me into account as I will not be chairman of their leadership council, (?as) I do not want to be president of my country. Divide it [word indistinct] into four. I am going tomorrow or the day after to Tunis. I am ready to hold a news conference and say that I have become a Tunisian so that you can have confirmation that I have nothing to do with this country. However, for you to put responsibility on my shoulders, if I stay in it, and I have given responsibility to you, this I will not accept. [passage omitted]

You say, no, we will not leave you alone and consider you officials, and you, Mu'ammar, we consider you president of the Republic and you are responsible for everything. To confirm to you that I am not responsible for it, I am ready to take the nationality of another state so that you know it is true that I have no relationship with this country. I will wander in the world and come to you here and leave like any citizen. If you are not satisfied with all this, from tomorrow define our powers, constitutional powers, clarifying when we can and cannot intervene, and whether we are officials or not, and whether we are protected (?against criticism) or not. [passage omitted]

If all these things do not satisfy you, by God tell us; define our powers. From now on, matters will start to be

not easy, because we at times do things which we believe must be done, but without powers, and anyone can protest them. Do not blame us. At times I do not do things for you because I have no powers. You say to me: Why did you not do this? I tell you, brothers, the authority is with you, not me. No, shame on you for letting these things pass. Shame on you for allowing this corruption. Shame on you for allowing this administrative laxity. How come shame on you? How can I come to a man in the street and say what are you doing? Anyone can come to me and say: What is it to you; the authority is for the people! According to what law do you try me?! So define our powers. [passage omitted] Then we will have a choice: We can tell you that we accept this status or tell you no thanks, and I will go to Yemen, Algeria, or Egypt. Goodbye. We can tell you this, or go to Malta. [passage omitted] Authority is in the hands of the people and there is no retreat at all from this. [passage omitted] Good night.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Turkish Envoy View River Diversion

LD2001011190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution today received (Necati Otekan), minister delegate and director general for economic affairs at the Turkish Foreign Ministry, and personal envoy of Turkish President Turgut Ozal to the brother leader. The Turkish envoy conveyed to the brother leader of the revolution of the Turkish Government's explanation regarding the measures taken by Turkey in diverting the course of the Euphrates about which the brother leader of the revolution spoke in his address to the 19th session of the Arab Agricultural Development Organization.

[Begin (Otekan) recording] [passage omitted] I have been assigned by the president to provide you with adequate and detailed information on the great Ataturk Dam [words indistinct]. I am also ready to answer any question you want to ask. [end recording]

The meeting was attended by the deputy director general of state water works and the ambassador of Turkey to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Jordan Agriculture Minister

LD1901171290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 19 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received Dr Sulayman 'Arabiyat, minister of agriculture in fraternal Jordan, who conveyed to the brother leader a verbal message from King Husayn of Jordan. [passage omitted]

Agricultural Council Meeting Continues

LD1801124590 Tripoli JANA in English 0905 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Jan (JANA)—The meetings of the 19th ordinary round held by the council of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) were resumed at noon yesterday in Tripoli for the second consecutive day.

The Arab agriculture ministers studied and debated the remaining items of the agenda presented to the council. They debated the memo presented by South Yemen's delegations and another memo regarding the resolutions of the economic and social council on the positions of the joint Arab work institutions.

The technical, financial and formulating sub-committees stemming from the meetings endeavored yesterday morning to finish the tasks and works given to them with regards to what have been reached through debates and studies conducted during the meetings.

Ministers Condemns U.S. 'Aggression'

LD1801160490 Tripoli JANA in English 1422 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli. 18 Jan (JANA)—Arab ministers of agriculture and participating delegations to the regular 19th session of the Council of Arab Organization for Agricultural Development visited yesterday the house of the leader of the revolution witnessing the effects of the abortive and barbarous US-NATO aggression against the Libyan Arab people. Writing in the guest-book, they condemned this aggression and paid tribute to the fortitude of the Libyan Arab people encountering this aggression courageously to foil the schemes of US imperialism targeting the Arab nation.

Egyptian Trade Union Leader Arrives on Visit

LD1801180990 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, Ay Annar [January] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—'Abd-al-Rahman Khidhr the secretary general of the Trade Union [Federation] of Egypt arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

On his arrival, the Egyptian trade union secretary general told JANA that the visit comes within the framework of consolidating cooperation between the producers union of Great Jamahiriyah and the Trade Union of Egypt. He asserted that the relations between the sons of the one Arab people in both Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt were eternal and close relations.

Sudan

Government Commander Said Detained in Zaire

EA1901150790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Reliable sources from Aru in Zaire revealed that Brigadier PSC [Passed Staff College] Isaiah Paul was physically man-handled by the Zairean Army when he

tried with about 900 soldiers to march to Maridi [southern Sudan] from inside Zaire.

The sources say that Brig Isaiah Paul and his 900 soldiers have been disarmed by the Zairean authorities and are waiting to be flown to Kinshasa. The Sudanese People's Liberation Army is closely monitoring the movement in handling of these fugitive soldiers.

SPLA Claims Capture of Tore Garrison

EA1901151190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Another garrison falls to the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] in Western Equatoria. "Bright Star" campaign forces yesterday, Thursday, 18 January 1990, overran the strategic garrison of Tore, 48 miles from Yei and 102 miles from Maridi on the Yei-Maridi road.

And "Bright Star" campaign forces are now advancing on (Ras-Wulu) and Maridi. The civilian population has already started to evacuate Maridi town for the countryside in response to SPLA warning and advice. This warning and advice must be taken seriously. We are serious.

SPLA Claims 2 Government Bombers Shot Down

EA1901145790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Forces of the "Bright Star" campaign shot down an enemy Antonov bomber over Kajo Kaji [Western Equatoria] 10 days ago. The wreckage of the plane was found 2 days ago about 40 miles from Kajo Kaji. The plane was shot down by a (Zu)-37 antiaircraft gun.

Again yesterday, Thursday, 18 January 1990, another enemy Antonov bomber was shot down by "Bright Star" campaign forces advancing to Juba from Yei area. The enemy had used high-altitute Antonov [word indistinct] 22 bombers over the last month, but now the SPLA has acquired the capability to bring down high-altitude bombers using both antiaircraft cannon and heat-seeking missiles.

Government Denies SPLA Claim

EA2001153490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The General Command of the People's Armed Forces today issued the following statement:

The outlaws' radio said today that their forces had shot down a Sudanese military Antonov aircraft, type CU-22, north of Kajo Kaji 10 days ago. It also said that on 12 January they shot down another aircraft in the area near Juba.

The General Command wishes to confirm that all its aircraft are present and that it has lost no aircraft. This claim has no basis in truth. What was broadcast by the outlaws' radio was intended to boost the morale of its routed forces. That is the end of the statement.

Al-Bashir Returns From IGADD Conference

EA1901091590 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman, has returned to the country after a 3-day visit to Djibouti during which he led the Sudanese delegation to the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] conference, whose session ended there yesterday. [passage omitted]

Minister Approves Electricity Export Project

EA2001173690 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Ahmad Sahlul announced Sudan's blessing of the project to export electricity to the neighboring countries through an electricity network from Zaire to the Sudan and Egypt. He also announced Sudan's readiness to join the African organization of the producers and exporters of energy.

The announcements were made in response to the request of the Zairean minister of energy to Foreign Minister Sahlul, at a meeting between them yesterday in Kinshasa on the sideline of the meetings of the third session of the joint ministerial committee between the Sudan and Zaire. Sudan's delegation to these meetings is led by Mr Sahlul.

It is to be noted that the energy minister of Zaire has informed Mr Sahlul of the details of the project and the necessity of the Sudan's consent before rendering it to the African Development Bank for financing the feasibility study.

Industry Ministry Plans Sugar Production Increase

EA1401070990 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Jan 90

[From "Political Commentary"]

[Excerpts] The industry minister has announced that his ministry has ambitious plans to increase sugar production by 50 percent next year. The ministry's program consists of rehabilitation, maintenance and providing production requirements. The industry ministry's keen interest in sugar emanates from the National Salvation Revolution's program and plans for realizing its slogan: "Let's eat what we grow and wear what we make." [passage omitted]

It became clear beyond any doubt that we import sugar, spending millions of foreign exchange, only for it to be smuggled out of the country or sold on the black market at prices out of reach to the citizen. [passage omitted]

The new law offers easy conditions by introducing incentive prices for land, by exempting machinery from custom taxes and by exempting the investor from production levies for a period of 5 years. All these are to

induce capital into entering projects which will help to achieve self-sufficiency in essential commodities and consumer goods, in accordance with mutual interest and profit. [passage omitted]

Official Discusses Relief With Envoys

EA1601180390 Khartoum SUNA in English 0931 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Jan (SUNA)—The Revolution Command Council member and the chairman of the political committee, Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, met here yesterday a delegation representing the donor countries to Sudan, led by the American ambassador here. The meeting reviewed the relief situation in the country and the issue of resuming the second phase of the relief operation, Lifeline Sudan. During the meeting, Brig Hasan affirmed that studies pertinent to the second phase of the relief operation were about to be completed, stressing that the revolution is exerting utmost efforts towards passing relief supplies to the needy people at different locations in Sudan.

The meeting was attended by the ambassadors of France, West Germany, Italy and the charge d'affaires of the Netherlands and Denmark, along with the CC [Command Council] delegate here.

Counting of Refugees Extended to February

EA1501205290 Khartoum SUNA in English 1612 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Jan (SUNA)—Subscription and counting of refugees and foreigners in the national capital Khartoum has been extended to next February as a final date.

Interior minister and Command Council member General Faysal Ali Abu Salih has ordered the extension the period, of which was previously set for for this month.

Some 26,966 refugees and foreigners have been registered in the period 20 May to 20 October, 1989.

New Rate for Expatriates' Money Transfers

EA1801141290 Khartoum SUNA in English 1022 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 18th January (SUNA)—The transfers of the Sudanese expatriates will be counted by the current free exchange rate, the secretary-general of the expatriates' commission Al-Sa'id 'Uthman Mahgoub said.

He added that dealing with the past official rate was set for l.s. [Sudanese pounds] 4.5 for each dollar. Mahgoub noted that the move was taken by the revolution to encourage the expatriates.

Reportage on Prisoners of War Exchange With Iran

Red Cross Asked To Help

JN1901190990 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1730 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Excerpt] United Nations, 19 Jan (INA)—Iraq today reiterated its request for the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to pressure the Iranian regime into abiding by the best solution; namely, the comprehensive exchange of all prisoners of war [POW's] in accordance with the 1949 Third Geneva Convention.

This was stated in a message that Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations sent to the UN secretary general, and included the announcement an official Iraqi spokesman made 2 days ago regarding the release of 20 sick and wounded POW's and their return to Iran. [passage omitted]

Message Sent to Perez de Cuellar

JN2001135290 Baghdad INA in English
1235 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] United Nations. Jan 20, INA—Iraq has re-called on the International Committee of the Red Cross and international community to press Iran to adhere to the ideal solution and hold a comprehensive swap of prisoners of Iraq-Iran war (POWS) in accordance with Geneva third convention of 1949.

In a message sent last night to the U.N. secretary general by Iraq's ambassador to the U.N. and included the Thursday [18 January] statement of an Iraqi spokesman concerning the release of 20 sick and wounded Iranian POWs, Iraq clarified that the Iranian decision over freeing a few Iraqi POWs was no more than a propagating [as received] move aimed at easing the international pressure on the Iranian regime for its disgraceful stances towards the POWs affair and its violation of the international and humanitarian law as well as Geneva third convention.

The message added that Iraq reiterated President Saddam Husayn's recent peace initiative calling for releasing all wounded and sick POWs, those who spent longer time in captivity, registering the unregistered, and repatriating all POWs to end their sufferings and those of their families.

POW Release 'Small Propaganda'

JN2001110690 Baghdad INA in English
1040 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Jan 20. INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad today denounced the clear manoeuvres of the Iranian regime towards the issue of prisoners of war and using them as a card for bargaining and blackmail.

A daily article here today said that the Iranian regime did not benefit from previous bitter experiences and was still imagining of having the capability of misguiding the world and covering up glowing realities.

It said that the Iranian regime recently released 50 Iraqi sick and wounded POWs within the frame of a clear and small propaganda process to cover up its disgraceful attitude toward the question of POWs and its full responsibility to the continuation of the suffering of thousands of Iraqi and Iranian POWs.

AL-THAWRAH added that the Iranian regime through this small operation was trying to evade the human proposal and initiative of President Saddam Husayn which called for the release of all sick and wounded POWs without exception.

The daily affirmed that this Iranian small play would not mask the Iranian regime's rejection of commitment to the Geneva Convention concerning the release of POWs.

It added that release of a small number of POWs would not excuse Iran from the full responsibility of the continued holding of thousands of Iraqi and Iranian [as received] POWs without justification but for the desire of Iran rulers to use the issue of POWs as a card for blackmail and bargaining. [passage omitted]

Paper on 'Dangerous Dimensions' of Shamir Remarks

JN2101145790 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1000 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has laid bare the dangerous dimensions of Zionist Yitzhaq Shamir's statements on Greater Israel and the alternative homeland. In an article today, the newspaper says there is nothing new in the logic of Zionist Yitzhaq Shamir because his state was originally established on aggression, expansion, and complete U.S. support and bias, not to mention his own efforts to exploit international changes in his entity's favor and to expand its European and international relations.

The paper adds that there are certain facts preventing the Zionists from going far in their aggressive and sick imaginations. The brave intifadah in the occupied Arab territories has expanded the scope of international support for the Palestinian people's rights. Moreover, there is the Arab willingness to strengthen solidarity.

The paper also says that Palestinians will not relinquish any part of their legitimate national rights. It calls on the Arabs to realize the dangerous dimensions of Zionist Shamir's statements. The Zionists are mobilizing all their energies to achieve their wicked and aggressive goals.

The paper points out that U.S. support for the Zionist state, the opening of the door to immigration, the settlement of Jews from around the world in occupied Palestine, the Iranian role in this issue, and the Persian candelabra that appeared on a Zionist coin on the anniversary of the Jewish community in Persia all prove that Shamir's logic refutes any possibility of change in the Zionist policy and their flagrant hostility.

Clashes, Casualties Reported in South Lebanon

Air Force Hits Radio Station

TA1901131090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Air Force planes this morning attacked a radio station east of Sidon. All our planes returned safely, and the target was hit. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported the station broadcast instructions to terrorists in Lebanon and to hostile elements in the territories.

IDF Officer Killed

TA2101211690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer, Colonel Yitzhaq Rahimov, was killed this afternoon in a clash between SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops and terrorists in the security zone. Colonel Rahimov was a liaison officer between the IDF and the SLA.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports this afternoon three terrorists locked themselves in a house in the village of Yarun. An SLA unit surrounded the house. In a fire exchange with the terrorists, Colonel Rahimov was wounded; later, he died of his wounds.

Colonel Yitzhaq Rahimov was 39 years old. He served in command and instruction positions in the IDF. He was a resident of Merom Golan.

Four 'Terrorists' Killed

TA2201083290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The four terrorists who barricaded themselves inside a building in the village of Yarun in southern Lebanon and who killed Colonel Yitzhaq Rahimov have been liquidated by a unit of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports one of the terrorists apparently was shot inside the house as early as last night, while the others managed to flee the building, but were killed after a brief chase. The chief of staff, the commander of the Northern Command, and senior officers arrived at the scene.

An initial debriefing indicates the soldiers followed procedures. Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, highly commended the performance of Col Rahimov, who acted in the best IDF tradition of a commanding officer reaching the target at the head of his troops.

Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, said the operation had required several hours to do a thorough and cautious job. The chief of staff noted it is not known to which organization the terrorist gang belonged. According to him, Col Rahimov's participation in the operation was essential. The SLA carried out the operation, but the IDF provided backup fire and liaison, Lt Gen Shomron noted.

Lebanese Area Sealed, Searched

TA2201055590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Excerpts] An Israeli Army colonel, Yitzhaq Rahimov of Kibbutz Merom Golan, has been killed in a clash with terrorists in south Lebanon. Colonel Rahimov was with a south Lebanese force when he was killed by a burst of fire from the terrorists who were hiding in a house near the village of Yarun on the south Lebanese side of the border north of Kibbutz Bar'am. At this hour it is not clear what has happened to the terrorists. An Israeli force has surrounded the area. [passage omitted]

Units of the IDF and the SLA last night closed off a wide area in the western sector of south Lebanon around the village of Bint Jubayl and Yarun. Searches are continuing in the area to capture the terrorists. Gunfire was heard all last night and flares could be seen in the area. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Gang Uncovered

TA2201054290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The security forces have uncovered the members of the terrorist gang that gunned down Jawad Tamazi of Idnah about a month ago in downtown Hebron. Tamazi, a former policeman, had been suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports overnight the Israeli Army sealed the homes of gang members Samir Sa'di and Kamal Amrish. In the course of the investigation, the two turned in the gun they used to shoot Tamazi. They were members of Fatah's strike forces.

Our correspondent adds the home of Mahmud Zayyad was sealed in the town of Baytuniya near Ramallah. The security forces are seeking him on suspicion of having taken part in the murder 3 months ago of an Arab suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Reportage on Arrest, Detainment of Al-Husayni

Detained for 4 Days

TA1901132190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni has been detained for 4 days. Judge Musya Arad of the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court accepted the police request that the Palestinian activist be held in custody, primarily because the charges filed at a Lod military court yesterday against five Silwan residents contends one of them received funds from Al-Husayni to purchase a uniform. The judge said since the police suspicions are based on testimony of individuals

held in detention at the moment, it will not be necessary to keep Al-Husayni in prison for more than 4 days. The police had sought a 15-day detention period.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that upon leaving the courthouse, Faysal al-Husayni said to the large international press contingent present nothing will stop the peace process, not even his arrest. He denied having paid money and said the man who received payment from him worked as a plumber in his house.

Released on Bail

TA2201091290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Here is a report just in from our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum: Faysal al-Husayni a few minutes ago was released on bail. We hope to have more details by the next newscast. Only this morning it was reported the police intend to demand the court remand him in custody, and it even was indicated the police believe further evidence against him had been obtained.

Fight Breaks Out Upon Release

TA2201103190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] A short time ago Faysal al-Husayni was brought before a Jerusalem police investigating officer and released on bail. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports Al-Husayni had been interrogated for 3 days by Shin Bet personnel at the Jerusalem police station's detention facility. Other suspects involved in the affair were detained as a result and are currently being interrogated. Investigation of the allegations against Al-Husayni himself continues, but Shin Bet officials said there is no further need to keep him in custody.

Upon his release from custody, a melee broke out outside the detention facility. A group of right-wingers, in particular Kakh [Me'r Kahane's group] activists, tried to attack him, but Palestinian activists shielded him. A fistfight ensued between the sides, including a group of women, members of the Organization of Terror Victims, who exchanged blows with Palestinian women. The police intervened, dispersing the rioters with clubs. Al-Husayni was driven away by car and now is scheduled to convene a news conference in East Jerusalem.

Said Ineligible for Delegation

TA2201103790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] Israel will consider Faysal al-Husayni ineligible for membership in the Palestinian delegation to the planned Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo, because of his links to the PLO and because he lives in East Jerusalem, officials in the Prime Minister's Office told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

Al-Husayni, a leading Palestinian and widely believed to be the leading PLO personality in the territories, was remanded on Friday for four days on suspicion of providing funds for the Palestinian People's Army in the West Bank. Al-Husayni has denied the charge.

The U.S. State Department has censured Israel for undermining the peace process by insisting on pressing charges against Al-Husayni.

"Al-Husayni is ineligible, because he is a PLO member and is also a resident of East Jerusalem," an official in the Prime Minister's Office told THE POST. Because of Al-Husayni's PLO connections, said the official, his presence in Cairo would add weight to PLO claims that elections in the territories are superfluous. "We won't fall into that trap," he said. If the Cairo talks are not properly structured by the prior vetting of the Palestinian delegates, "you can say goodbye to the peace process," the official said. [passage omitted]

Sharon: Opportunity To Get Rid of Al-Husayni

TA2101173690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] In today's Cabinet meeting, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the United States has decided to supply Egypt with several hundred tanks. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports in the wake of this revelation, Minister Sharon said the armament of Arab countries will increase in the near future as a result of military cutbacks in other parts of the world. The weapons industry, which will now seek new markets, will find the Arab countries offer the best market available.

Referring to the detention of Faysal al-Husayni, Minister Sharon said it has a security aspect: Al-Husayni's terrorist connection has existed for a long time. In his opinion, the fact the United States is preoccupied with Panama and the Soviet Union with Azerbaijan presents a fine opportunity to get rid of an entire group of people, the center of which is Al-Husayni, through deportations and arrests.

Shamir To Demand Committee Vote of Confidence

TA2101201590 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said the situation in the Likud is grave, and he therefore will demand a vote of confidence in the leadership at the Central Committee convention 7 February. Mr Shamir added an impossible situation has arisen in which party members attack him from inside the Likud, claiming he has been giving in to outside pressures. This is an impossible situation, he said. An end must be put to this behavior, in which party members cause damage to the Likud from inside, Mr Shamir said.

Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran adds Mr Shamir warned if this self-inflicted wounding continues, the Likud's public standing will weaken.

No-Confidence Motions Submitted

TA2101202990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Two of the Knesset factions—the Progressive List for Peace and the Arab Democratic Party—have submitted motions of no confidence in the government in wake of Faysal al-Husayni's detention. The motions presumably will be debated Wednesday at the Knesset plenum.

Al-Husayni's detention may be debated as soon as tomorrow at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session, which Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will attend. [passage omitted]

Deportees Inclusion in Talks Said 'No Problem'

TA2101195190 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] In the upcoming 48 hours, U.S. Secretary of State Baker and his senior aides will conduct consultations to find a formula acceptable to all the parties toward composing a Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel, our political correspondent Yig'al Goren has learned. These consultations will rely on ideas brought forward by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during his recent visit to Washington. Minister Rabin has defined his view of the chances for the peace process as very cautious optimism.

Ministers close to the prime minister said today the issue of inclusion of deportees in the Palestinian delegation will pose no problem; conversely, the question of including East Jerusalem Arabs may prove problematic. In their opinion, the key to continuing the process lies in the question of whether or not the prime minister contrives to overcome the constraints' barrier at next month's Likud Central Committee convention.

Rabin on Talks; Office Denies Deportees Allowed

TA2201105690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jan 90 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Yo'av Qarni]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said at the Cabinet session yesterday the sorry state of the peace process was one of the reasons the U.S. Administration and Congress have expressed their support for the proposed cut in aid to Israel.

Reporting on his talks in Washington, Rabin said he had received the impression Senator Robert Dole was expressing more than just his private opinion. Rabin stated although there had been no evidence President Bush was behind the cutback proposal, it enjoyed widespread support in the White House and Congress.

Rabin named two factors that helped support the proposal: the feeling Israel was not doing enough to salvage the peace process from its present deadlock, and different U.S. priorities following the changes in the Eastern bloc. Rabin informed the Cabinet friends of Israel in the Senate had told him the current state of the peace process had made it difficult to further Israeli interests in Congress.

In a report on his meetings with senior Pentagon officials, Rabin related his interlocutors were not impressed with his assertion the aid to Israel should not be reduced because Israel's defense expenditures, relative to total GNP, are greater than those of the United States, Europe, and Japan. The Pentagon officials explained the United States must slash its defense budget to increase aid to Eastern Europe and Panama. [passage omitted]

Israel is supposed to send the United States a list of its candidates for the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks, which would include two deportees. Sources at the Prime Minister's Office last night clarified there was no truth to rumors Prime Minister Shamir does not oppose the participation of deportees, but only opposes the inclusion of East Jerusalem residents.

At this stage, it is the opposition of Egypt which prevents implementation of the idea by which the United States could serve as a name bank for lists of candidates submitted by Israel and the PLO (through Egypt), with Egypt being the party publishing the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

During the Cabinet session, Rabin confirmed this idea indeed had been presented to him in the United States. It is designed to resolve the argument between the PLO, which demands it announce publicly the composition of the delegation, and Israel, which vehemently rejects this demand.

Egypt so far has refused to deliver the list of names prepared in Cairo in conjunction with the PLO, fearing the list then would be sent to Israel, according it an active role in forming the delegation. [passage omitted]

Rabin: Labor Could Achieve Dialogue by Itself

TA1901194590 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Good evening, Mr Minister.

[Rabin] Good evening to you and the viewers.

[Shlonsky] Let us begin with the affair of Faysal al-Husayni, who was detained this morning. What has

happened to warrant this sudden decision? Have the authorities learned facts they had not known in the preceding month or 2?

[Rabin] The decision was made by the attorney general, and I presume it was based on material amassed in the course of the police investigation. Al-Husayni resides in a city under Israeli jurisdiction. It will be remembered in the past 2 and ½ years, I myself signed two administrative detention orders against him, as a result of which he spent two 6-month terms under administrative detention. I assume the attorney general had valid grounds to take the most recent steps against him.

[Shlonsky] In your opinion, these steps are not in reaction to the pressures exerted by right-wing parties and other radical elements that recently have demanded Al-Husayni's detention?

[Rabin] I do not believe continuation of the uprising in the territories depends on any 1 man or any 10. There currently are more than 9,000 inmates in the detention facilities, yet I cannot claim this has put an end to the intifadah. At the same time, those who bear more responsibility than others should be dealt with through appropriate legal measures.

[Shlonsky] Speaking in Washington yesterday, you said there has been no breakthrough in negotiations. Could you perhaps say what it is we do have, if we have no breakthrough? Or do we really have a stalemate—which is how things look from here?

[Rabin] If the issue is the political process, the next stage—after both Israel and Egypt have agreed to Secretary Baker's five points—ought to be a meeting of the three foreign ministers. Several open problems must be resolved before such a meeting can be conducted, however; if it is conducted, it will open a corridor that can lead to the process initiated by the government: a dialogue between the two delegations. In my opinion, the obstacles which still exist can be overcome even in the framework of the unity government, if both the Arab party—Egyptians and Palestinians—and Israel take reasonable positions conforming with the Israeli Government's resolution of 14 May 1989. This can be achieved. I was glad to hear the announcement broadcast a short while ago on Israeli television [reference to Mikha'el Gurdus' report on Jerusalem Television in Hebrew at 1815 GMT citing a senior Egyptian official, "possibly Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid," as saying in Washington that "the parties have achieved common grounds that can enable an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, despite differences of opinion which can be bridged."]. In my conversation with Secretary of State Baker, I learned another meeting with the Egyptian group headed by the foreign minister will be conducted. I saw the Americans are interested in promoting the issue and are seeking solutions.

[Shlonsky] Why, in your opinion, is it taking such a long time? Why has there been no progress in the past month or more?

[Rabin] I suggest we draw a line between two directions of activity. The first issue is the assurances. With all respect due to this subject and despite its importance, the treatment of this issue of assurances is secondary to the need to resolve three problems without which we will not be able to attain a dialogue. This latter objective is the condition for launching the peace process. The three unresolved problems are: the composition of the Palestinian delegation, who will announce it, and the agenda. It seems to me the central issue is the delegation's composition, while the other two seem much less crucial.

[Shlonsky] In your opinion, had the Alignment conducted the negotiations alone, without the Likud, would you now be able to reach the corridor which you had mentioned—the meeting of the three foreign ministers?

[Rabin] I am certain if the Alignment had a solid majority in the Knesset, the dialogue between the two delegations now would be behind us. But still, I believe we should pursue the present efforts and exhaust every possibility to promote the process within the framework of the national unity government.

[Shlonsky] What about the aid cut mentioned this week in Washington? You said in Washington you do not believe the aid will be cut, at least in the upcoming year. What about the future?

[Rabin] U.S. public opinion no doubt is undergoing a change; there also is a reassessment of their defense budget. They already have started cutting the U.S. defense budget. The issues on our agenda include strategic cooperation—its pattern and goals in changing circumstances. The other item on the agenda was U.S. aid. As far as I can tell from my talks with the secretaries of defense and of state, with General Scowcroft, and with White House officials, I see no problem in the near future. All I see is a desire to continue strategic cooperation and to retain the aid framework. On the contrary, joint efforts are being made to extract the maximum purchasing power from the nominal aid.

[Shlonsky] Are you referring to the conversion of U.S. dollars into shekels?

[Rabin] We were promised, for instance, that the $400 million allocated for conversion into shekels in the 1991 U.S. fiscal year will be augmented to $475 million. It further was said that aspect of strategic cooperation in which American funds, outside of aid moneys, are invested in spheres related to strategic cooperation, will be pursued to the extent of a further addition of $100 million. Another issue was joint research and development projects which had been launched in the past and which we hope will be continued and expanded.

[Shlonsky] Thank you very much, Mr Minister.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Levi Cuts Short U.S. Visit Over Assurances

TA2201054390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Minister David Levi has cut short his visit to the United States, during which he raised funds for building projects. He decided to return home ahead of schedule due to what he termed the great confusion concerning the assurances appended to Israel's peace initiative. He intends to clarify the matter with the prime minister.

Peres To Raise Alternatives to Shamir Plan

TA2201113990 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres will discuss with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak various political ideas in lieu of the Shamir plan. The new ideas are designed to replace the Shamir initiative after its failure becomes evident and will include an updated version of Peres' old concept of an "international umbrella" for a comprehensive political process. Labor Party sources conveyed this assessment to our correspondent. Peres' plans include a solution to the Palestinian problem within the framework of regional accords, along the lines of the Benelux agreement, which he previously has espoused.

The sources believe were it to become clear there is no chance to implement the dialogue in Cairo, Peres would suggest looking into the possibility of having a Palestinian representation within a Jordanian delegation, a framework similar to the joint delegation proposed before the Husayn-'Arafat agreement collapsed.

Shamir: No Official Response Yet to Baker Draft

TA2101122390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Responding to allegations by the constraints ministers, the prime minister said in today's Cabinet session the Israeli Government had not yet submitted an official response to Baker's draft. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem:

[Gutman] The weekly Cabinet session has just ended, and the ministers are stepping out into cold and rainy Jerusalem. At the beginning of the weekly Cabinet session, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein reported on his talk with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Dennis Ross about the draft document on the U.S. assurances to Israel. This led to questions by the ministers, particularly by Ari'el Sharon, one of the constraints ministers. Sharon asked: What exactly did Rubinstein say? Rabin replied: I know nothing specific, I only know about it in very general terms. Pursuing the same subject, Minister Ya'aqov Tzur asked: Is Israel currently in a position where it must provide an answer to the United States? The prime minister summed up the issue by saying: The Americans know there has been no official Israeli reply to Baker's draft, but this does not mean we cannot seek clarifications on the matter.

The Cabinet then proceeded to hear a briefing by Defense Minister Rabin upon his return from talks in Washington. Rabin said the Egyptians also had gone to Washington to seek assurances. He added: Apparently, we are relying on previous declarations by U.S. leaders on the political issue. Progress on the political process will be determined by three factors: 1) the composition of the Palestinian delegation; 2) who will announce it; and 3) the agenda of the debate. Agreement on these three factors, Rabin said, apparently are a precondition for a meeting of the three foreign ministers.

Rabin continued: The Americans did not say anything unequivocal about how the list of Palestinian delegates would be formulated, but one proposal being floated is to compile a bank of names. At this point, Sharon interrupted and said: This is a propitious time to abandon the election scheme and launch another initiative to get out of the trap of conducting democratic elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. As for participation of East Jerusalem Arabs in the elections, Sharon said: When speaking about East Jerusalem, are we referring to house owners or to owners of just any four-wall structure?

Minister Ya'aqobi asked Defense Minister Rabin: Are reports true Syria is willing to enter negotiations with Israel? Rabin replied no such signs are discernible. Ya'aqobi proceeded to raise the question of Faysal al-Husayni's arrest: Was sound political judgment exercised when applying to court to remand Al-Husayni in custody? Shamir answered: This issue is outside the Cabinet's jurisdiction. Minister Shahal noted: If it turns out there was no legal basis to arrest Al-Husayni, this will have been a serious mistake.

Minister Shahal reacted to Sharon's notion to quit the elections plan by saying: You abandoned the London agreement and the Shultz initiative, and now you want to abandon the elections scheme. This is the only chance to attain a political solution. If this initiative is not promoted, the alternative will be an agreement between the superpowers by means of an international conference, against Israel's wishes.

Shamir: Territories Needed for Mass Immigration

TA1501064690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jan 90 pp 1, 8

[Report by political correspondent]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday compared the mass immigration of Soviet Jews to "all the miracles that have always rescued the Jewish people," and said that "big immigration requires Israel be big as well."

The flood of immigrants made it imperative that Israel maintain its hold on the territories, he said, as "we need the space to house all the people."

Addressing Likud old-timers in Tel Aviv, Shamir strongly alluded to the demographic argument against holding the territories when he said: "Just when many among us were saying that time is working against us, time has brought us this aliya and has solved everything. In five years, we won't even be able to recognize the country. Everything will change—the people, the way they live—everything will be bigger, stronger."

As a result, said the premier, "The Arabs around us are in a state of disarray and panic... They are shrouded by a feeling of defeat, because they see that the intifada doesn't help—they cannot stop the natural streaming of the Jewish people to their homeland.

"And after all, this is what (the conflict) is all about," he said.

Shamir also lambasted the international and Arab media for its "unyielding smear campaign against Israel and its prime minister."

Singling out a WASHINGTON POST editorial which called him "old and stubborn," Shamir said: "Those who know me know that I am not stubborn, but how can you not be stubborn about the Land of Israel? And I may no longer be young, but I still have the strength to withstand all those who would deprive us of our hope."

The people of Israel, Shamir said, "are used to isolation" and will not yield "at this time of national emergency."

Referring to the Likud Central Committee meeting scheduled for early February, Shamir called on his Likud colleagues to demand that his opponents in the party "step back in line." Without mentioning rebel hardline Ministers Ari'el Sharon, David Levi and Yitzhaq Moda'i by name, Shamir said that the internal disunity wrought by "some" in the Likud could harm its electoral chances should the unity government disband.

"It's difficult to predict whether all the elements sabotaging the government from within will succeed one day," Shamir conceded. "The government could fall tomorrow. Many may tell us that they can't support a movement that has such internal divisions."

Shamir insisted that since "there are no ideological differences" in the party, the divisions are "without foundation." He added that "every one of us, if he sees another engaging in slander and attacks, must tell him: 'Get back in line, you're doing us all harm.'"

Shamir nonetheless maintained that he did not fear a Labour government. He said the national unity government served the Likud's purpose of "saying no to talks with the PLO and no to a Palestinian state." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Delegation Work 'Quietly' Continues

TA2201101790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] Israel and the U.S. are quietly working on the list of Palestinian delegates to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in parallel with Israel's request for assurances from the U.S. on barring PLO participation in such talks and on fixing other guidelines, officials in the Prime Minister's Office confirmed yesterday.

Until now, the Foreign Ministry has contended that talks concerning the list will start only when the discussions over the assurances have been completed. But it now appears that a more flexible negotiating approach might be taking place.

Israel television reported last night that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will convene his advisers within the next few days to finalize the principles that will define the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir confirmed to cabinet members yesterday that informal U.S. negotiations are continuing by telephone. Sources say Shamir told colleagues that Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein informed U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Policy Planning Dennis Ross over the phone last week about the draft Israeli response to the U.S. working paper on assurances. U.S. officials wanted an Israeli response before Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met with Baker last Thursday.

Shamir insisted, however, that the U.S. knows that the final version of the Israeli response will be approved only after the inner cabinet meeting this week. In a secret memo to Shamir last month, Rubinstein wrote that the U.S. would in all likelihood not agree to all the assurances that Israel is requesting. Two hardline Likud ministers, Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon and Housing Minister David Levi, complained during yesterday's cabinet meeting that most ministers have been kept in the dark about the parallel negotiations. [passage omitted]

Press Reaction to U.S. Aid Cut Proposal

TA1801143290 HA'ARETZ, etc

[Editorial Report] Senator Robert Dole's proposal of slashing U.S. aid to Israel receives wide coverage, and elicits extensive comment, in the 18 January Hebrew-language press. The reaction to the proposal ranges from self-accusation for bringing about the harsh measure by political and economic deed and misdeed; through an opinion that the suggestion stems from internal U.S. partisan politicking and is part of the tug-of-war between the Republican White House and the Democratic Congress, while serving as a test case to gauge the strength of the Jewish lobby; through a global view maintaining the changes in the world balance of power have diminished

Israel's—but not only Israel's—strategic importance for the United States, and justify the diversion of funds to the budding democracies in East Europe; to the assessment perhaps, in the final analysis, Dole will be doing Israel a great service by forcing it to reassess its economic policy and to shape up on its own.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar, in a special front-page "Analysis" column, writes under the headline "The Linkage to Egypt Will Help" that "it is a lucky thing Egypt is in trouble." Another fortunate coincidence is that Dole's statement, "which was probably orchestrated by the administration, hit Jerusalem just as a Jewish lobby delegation is visiting Israel" armed with "important advice to the Israeli leadership: Do not present the U.S. loan (guarantees for $400 million) as a substitute for aid ($500 million): You can get both." The linkage of Israel to Egypt "under the banner of assistance to the Camp David countries" was "one of the most important developments of the past decade," says Eldar. But "the foreign aid bill was never a popular one and congressmen often claim only the Jewish and Israeli lobby stand in their way, preventing them from rechanneling a substantial share of foreign aid to their unemployed constituents. The four other countries enjoying the shield, including Egypt, have jumped on the bandwagon and are taking a ride on Israel's sturdy back. The latest development on Capitol Hill shows the lobby and the back are no longer what they used to be when a leading senator and a former presidential candidate dares to challenge the sacred cow of aid to Israel—and probably has grounds to believe this will not cost him any loss of power." Eldar thus concludes, "Assuming the United States will not risk shaking the status of Mubarak, who has difficulties supplying bread for the masses, and that it will not slash aid to Egypt, Israel will continue to enjoy the linkage with its southern neighbor."

An editorial in HA'ARETZ appears on page B1 and is titled "A Warning Signal From Washington." Dole's proposal, it says, "should be viewed as a warning signal: The end of the days of ennui, thinking U.S. aid to the tune of $3 billion per annum is guaranteed, can be seen on the horizon." The editorial notes "while Israel was not the first one to enjoy this system, it nonetheless substantially benefited from it. Israel furthermore was used by other countries as a benchmark against which to measure the amount of aid they thought they deserve." This explains why "75 percent of the overall foreign aid was earmarked for only five countries. If the U.S. Administration wants to extend aid to countries such as Poland, Hungary, and the GDR—possibly also Romania and Czechoslovakia—and since there is no talk of budget increases, it seems we should demand what by right is ours from those countries which had to date enjoyed a near-monopoly on U.S. aid funds."

Dole, states the editorial, "deliberately singled out" Israel, aiming his arrows at the pro-Israeli lobby. "Aid to East European nations leaning toward a shift to a free economy arouses great sympathy in the U.S. public," while "Israel has had a falling-out since the beginning of the intifadah and the attempts militarily to quash it. Israel's ties with South Africa are unpopular among large segments of the U.S. public, not only blacks. Central and Eastern Europe attracts the administration's attention to the exclusion of any other topic. The administration wants the United States to be perceived there as an element that can assist in the conversion from communist to liberal regimes."

Thus, "not only will it be difficult for Israel to compete with this new focus of U.S. public attention, but our government will err if it tries to deny" that the proposal "conceals a sting directed at the Israeli Government's policy in the context of the regional peace process." The budget cut is "one of the ways in which the U.S. Administration wants to signal to Jerusalem what it is capable of doing to convince the Likud its intransigent stand is unacceptable to the United States.

"The prime minister and the foreign minister would be well-advised not to turn a deaf ear to these first warning signs."

Headlined "Dole is Thinning the Dollar Stew," and making a pun on Dole's name and the Hebrew verb "ledalel," which means to water down, Tel Aviv DAVAR's editorial on page 7 recalls "the many billions in U.S. aid were born during the Yom Kippur War and became firmly established after Camp David. The Israeli public, which has grown accustomed to enjoying an annual grant of $3 billion," is not "in the habit of thinking about (let alone questioning) this fact of life, which more than anything else reflects Israeli dependence on Washington. In fact, even the U.S. public, which usually is even more lethargic than its Israeli counterpart, has accepted it as a fait accompli." However, "on the way from Camp David—although perhaps it was Al-Sadat's chief hope on the way to Camp David—Israel, its supporters, and the Jewish lobby learned from now on they will be carrying Egypt piggyback." The other four countries where the Americans "pour in many hundreds of millions of dollars a year" come immediately after. But intentions to cut back on foreign aid "to increase flexibility in allocating funds to other places are not new," as Gramm, Rudman, and Hollings have shown, even before Dole. Yet "Dole, George Bush's long-time bitter enemy, has worded his remarks against Israel very sharply, and in public, many times before: after the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd and in connection with Israel's ties with South Africa." His suggestion, "even if not coordinated with the administration, coincides with the general public and political moods in Washington, and certainly with the one prevailing in Wichita, Kansas. The Israelis and the Arabs, with their petty conflicts, are tiresome; the East Europeans, shaking off communism and departing from the path of friction with the West, spark a new—yet possibly transient—hope that should be exploited before it dies out. The silly proclamations about the connection

between aliyah—the reason for requesting supplementary aid—and 'a Greater Israel,' which just happens to be the same Eretz Yisra'el from which Secretary of State Baker shrank when he addressed the Jewish lobby forum last year, signify to the Americans that Israeli decision-makers have lost touch with reality and with those in the United States who hold the purse strings.

Dole's proposal will not be implemented at once, but it clearly points to the encroaching erosion in Israel's status in the political community in Washington, which is very attentive to its constituents. In a time of trial, Israel may forfeit more than the 5 percent in crucial support from across the ocean."

Shlomo Frankel, writing in Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR column titled "Pepper," headlines his commentary: "The Americans Are Also Barking." He repeats the adage "when trouble comes, as our miserable political echelon has learned, it does so not only in two's or three's, but in bulk. Now our dear friends in Jerusalem have another worry: The U.S. taxpayer is rebelling." Frankel maintains "U.S. foreign aid was born back in the early 1950's, during the reigns of President Truman and Prime Minister Ben-Gurion." He notes "it was HA'ARETZ (but also other papers) that called the aid deal by its true name: The United States bought itself a 'watchdog' in the Middle East.

"Although the politicians loved to stress the 'deep friendship,'" in fact the "real deal was for Israel to preserve U.S. interests (mainly oil) and pro-U.S. regimes in exchange for pecuniary remuneration, with the service being on a par with the money." "To date," notes Frankel, "'sovereign' Israel lends vast stretches of motherland in the Negev to the United States to set up the Voice of America relay station, and Haifa port admirably services the Sixth Fleet—not to mention more tangible services in the past in the form of, among other things, sustaining the pro-U.S. regime in Jordan." As the "watchdog's" activity increased, so did U.S. aid to Israel, turning it into a U.S. hostage. Israel today has the highest per capita debt and the highest war mortality rate in the entire industrialized world—all because Ben-Gurion sold us to Truman and Eisenhower and because later prime ministers, all the way down to the incumbent, continued to sell Israeli cannon fodder in exchange for a handful of dollars."

So "what can we do if Gorbachev has shown the Americans in the best possible manner that not only does he not wish to threaten the oil pumped by U.S. companies in the Middle East, but that he actually cannot even do so? His kingdom is crumbling. Will he go sniffing around the oilfields in Saudi Arabia? What can we do now that Egypt has become such a loyal ally, and even Syria and Al-Qadhdhafi's Libya are not as repulsive? Perhaps the Israeli 'watchdog' is not as important to the Americans anymore? Perhaps they can obtain greater security for their Middle East oil if they invest at least some of the money in bolstering democracy in East Europe?

"This actually is what Republican Minority Leader Robert Dole has said, what the administration will recommend even this year, and what Congress will approve either this year or next. When Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin therefore comments about the proposal, and says he wonders why the United States should cut back its investments in none other than this tense region, where such a move could intensify the fragility and lead to war, he no longer scares the Americans.

"Only in Israel can one still find some leaders—Rabin among them—who believe wars are a way to solve problems. The United States never was frightened by Middle East wars. It never has done anything to prevent them. What do the Americans care if we fight? Anyway, they have a theory (which also has some local support, common exclusively among people past the age of enlistment or even reserve duty) that there never will be a peace settlement here before there is another major bloodshedding in the Middle East (which will greatly profit the Americans in weapon and ammunition sales, although who knows how many of us will stay alive).

"So if Rabin, as the watchdog's defense minister, is prepared to supply the goods—why should they stop him? Only let him do it for a lower price, with all due respect, because they have better things to do with their dollars."

Tel Aviv HATZOFE page 2 editorial, titled "Cutting the Aid," urges a "sensible and balanced assessment of the move, without minimizing or exaggerating its significance." HATZOFE claims "the external packaging does not appear to settle accounts directly with Israel. It is presented as a cut in aid to the five countries enjoying the aid, although Israel gets the largest share of the overall sum. The administration previously understood Israel's special needs and avoided such a blow."

The timing of the move, "when Israel faces special needs for aliyah and is forced to finance undiminished defense costs, could deal us a serious blow. But while it is true Israel itself gradually must make efforts to decrease its dependence on the aid, it will hurt if the cut is imposed on it at a most unpropitious time. If this is meant as a signal to the Israeli Government to become more flexible in its policy regarding the future of Eretz Yisra'el, it will be necessary to explain clearly to the U.S. Administration this is not the way. Israel's arm cannot be twisted by economic sanctions," as what is "involved are vital interests over which one does not compromise for the sake of economic well-being." Whatever the political views in Israel, "it should be clear Cabinet decisions cannot be dictated by economic pressure. In this respect, at least, it is hoped Israel and its government will act in harmony and appear unanimous."

Ze'ev Hasper's commentary on page 2 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT, titled "Perhaps the Beginning of the Drying Out," likens U.S. aid to Israel to a placebo given to a drug addict, and says "perhaps as part of the war against drugs, the Americans have been contemplating

gradually cutting back the supply" of this placebo to Israel: "First only a 5 percent cut, so as not to force us to go through agonizing withdrawal symptoms. But the signal should be clear as day: You no longer are as important as you think you are. This time it only will be $150 million; next time it could be more. The signal can be interpreted politically in a variety of ways; economically, the message is a less happy one. Once Jerusalem realizes the U.S. commitment is not as expansive as it used to be, the government will have to start thinking differently and make greater efforts to work out an economic policy to relieve the country of its dependence on the aid. This will mean a truly free economy, finally—an economy that must become more efficient to compete and survive." Thus, concludes Hasper, "what we failed to deduce logically, Robert Dole has spelled out for us."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV's editorial on page A14, titled "Less Aid," calls Dole's message "handwriting on the wall," and emphasizes "there should be no mistake about the political background for the trend to slash the aid. It merely affirms the diminishing strategic importance of the unwritten pact with Israel. The feeling in the administration Israel is not doing enough to promote peace also contributes, if only marginally, to this trend."

The Israeli argument the lull in superpower tension has waned, and that Syria, Iraq, and Libya are continually purchasing additional USSR weapons, only will be partially accepted. The call for further assistance due to the impending wave of Soviet immigration hardly will hold water as requests for aid pile up from East Europe. "Will Israel be able to tolerate the cut?" asks MA'ARIV, and answers: "Given no other choice—yes, and perhaps also honorably." Seeing aid has in fact already shrunk due to inflation, its purchasing power anyhow has been cut.

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT editorial on page 2, written by Avi'ezer Golan and titled "Cutting Aid Is No Sanction," maintains "there are some people among us who want to regard everything as a U.S. sanction against us." But, says the editorial, "if the idea is to punish Israel for allegedly marking time in the peace process, what did Egypt, Turkey, the Philippines, and Pakistan do?" In fact, "there is no connection between the proposed budget cuts and sanctions. Dole's plan merely is an internal U.S. political move involving the Democratic Congress and the Republican President. This in no way sweetens the bitter pill of the $150-million cut in aid to Israel, but let us counter it with substantial arguments. For example, that the decreased superpower tension, which Dole cited as reason for the cut, has not yet reached the Middle East. We also can win over the help of Congress, which in this battle is our natural ally.

"At any rate, we must not rush to put the blame on ourselves," concludes the editorial.

U.S. affairs expert Tzvi Rafiah and economist Dov Genachowski both write in a special "News and its Significance" column on page 3 of YEDI'OT AHARONOT. Rafiah's article, titled "A Test of the Jewish 'Lobby,'" sees Senator Dole's move as a "serious challenge to the Jewish community's strength and influence in the United States, as well as a test of its support for Israel." Claiming the administration clearly is behind this move, he concludes, "if Congress turns down Dole's proposal—and I presume this will happen—it will not be out of respect for Israel, admiration for its image, or appreciation of its efforts to promote negotiations with the Palestinians; but mainly out of the renewed acknowledgement of the political strength of the Jewish community and 'lobby' in the United States."

Genachowski maintains that "the problem is not the $150 million Senator Dole wants cut. The problem is the principle, and here it goes way beyond the economic sphere." No one in Washington tries to conceal anymore the fact "the aid, or the threat to cut it, is used to obtain political ends, beginning with changing Israel's policy toward South Africa, down to a different policy in the territories. In the economic area, too, displeasure with our 'socialist economy' plays a role in arguing for the cuts."

We should not cave in, urges Genachowski, but "the most important thing is we not take either of two wrong roads: issuing an emotional appeal to the Jewish people to fill the void, or engaging in in-house belt-tightening." So what should we do? We should "first of all decide on economic restructuring," says Genachowski. And although "in this respect, 1989, like the years before, was wasted, if we start now, Senator Dole well may ultimately be seen as Israel's friend.

"We must therefore fully exploit the grace period still given us—and it is a rather long one—until the cuts go into effect, if they actually do, to implement what we really should have done long ago, even without U.S. threats: rebuild the Israeli economy.

"From the Israeli standpoint, this is not a cut in U.S. aid; it is the snipping off of the umbilical cord of our dependence on the United States."

Minister Urges Second Look at VOA Project

TA2101144590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Roni Milo, minister of ecology and environmental protection, suggested at today's Cabinet meeting a reexamination of Voice of America transmitter construction in Israel. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports the minister pointed out damage to the environment, scenery, and nature of the Negev, as well as various political and security considerations, justify such reexamination.

Body Found Near Tulkarm; Firebomb in Al-Birah

TA2101141190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] The body of the man discovered this morning in Iktabah near Tulkarm has been identified as 24-year-old

'Adil Qadduha from Shuwaykah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the man was identified by his brother. His corpse showed evidence of severe violence.

Our correspondent adds the murder aroused heated anger in the village, and the residents have decided to consider him a casualty of the intifadah. He previously had been held under administrative detention and was arrested several times following his release.

A firebomb was thrown this morning at a bus in al-Birah. The bus belonged to the Mate Binyamin Regional Council and was carrying students. The firebomb shattered on the reinforced windshield. No one was injured. A curfew was imposed on the area.

Update on 19-20 January Incidents in Territories

TA2101142990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jan 90 p A2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Palestinian sources said eight Palestinian residents were wounded during the weekend in incidents with soldiers. Another female resident was wounded by shots fired by the mukhtar of Zawiyah in the Janin district and another was beaten by a masked man.

Three were wounded in Ramallah in incidents with the Army: Najiyya Husayn Hamdan, 8; Wajih Hamdi al-Khadar, 18; and Najwa 'Ali 'Abd-al-Jawad, 42. The sources also reported one casualty in Bethlehem and two in Salfit, one in Husan, and a 9-year-old casualty named Ahmad Mahmud Mustafa from the Tulkarm refugee camp.

A firebomb was hurled at the home of the mukhtar of Zawiyah, who is suspected of collaborating with the authorities. The mukhtar fired back, wounding Izad Jahdan, 19. Masked men in Bethlehem yesterday used truncheons to beat a resident of al-Ghadir. A homemade bomb exploded near Hablah in the Tulkarm district when an Israeli vehicle passed. There was no damage; security forces started searches and imposed a curfew on the village. The curfews on Husan and the al-Fari'ah refugee camp continued for the 4th day. A delegation of the Israeli Red Line movement [composed of both Jewish and Arab doctors and nurses] yesterday visited the Janin area and brought medical equipment and other aid to inhabitants.

Some 50 Israeli students of the Hebrew University's Campus movement and the Arab Students Union conducted a demonstration and procession yesterday afternoon with lecturers and students from Bi'r Zayt University. The Israelis and Palestinians signed a joint manifesto at Bi'r Zayt denouncing measures against universities in the territories and their continued closure and called for ending the occupation and establishing a Palestinian state alongside Israel. The Israeli students later led a protest march with their Palestinian colleagues through Ramallah, which was disbanded after shots were fired at them from one of the roofs and an IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] unit arrived and ordered them to disband. [passage omitted]

Approximately 500 youngsters on Friday night attacked a Gaza district police station with stones and bottles, police said. They were prevented from entering the building by the IDF and police using tear gas and live ammunition. The number of casualties is unclear, although police sources believe there were casualties.

Senior IDF and security sources in the Gaza Strip expressed concern about the increase in the use of firearms against those suspected of collaborating with Israel. [passage omitted]

According to Palestinian sources, 11 people were wounded in clashes with IDF units in the Gaza Strip. The security forces imposed curfews on several neighborhoods in the region to carry out operations. Palestinian sources said these were clean-up operations.

Bassam al-Kafarnah, a journalist who lives in Gaza, claims security forces entered his home on Thursday, beat him up, and threatened him and his family with a revolver. The IDF spokesman's representative in the Southern Command refused to comment on the charges. Unofficial military sources claim Al-Kafarnah is suspected of hiding a wanted Palestinian in his home. [passage omitted]

Israeli Raids Said 'Most Intensive' Since 1982

NC1901162690 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Five people were killed and 12 others wounded in 12 raids carried out by Israeli enemy aircraft against targets in Lebanon today. Eleven of these raids were carried out against areas east of Sidon and one against Iqlim al-Tuffah. These raids are considered the most intensive ones since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. These raids targeted positions of the Fatah Movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in al-Miyah wa Miyah, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, 'Ayn al-Dulb, Jabal al-Halib, and al-Qurayyah.

According to reports from the field, the missiles fired by the aircraft almost totally destroyed the Palestinian positions. The reports said that there are a number of missing people who have not yet been accounted for. The al-Quds radio station received a direct hit, and a Fatah Movement building on Jabal al-Halib was totally destroyed.

Israeli aircraft also carried out a raid against resistance positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah at dawn today. Security sources reported that two people were wounded and heavy property damage caused.

The Foreign Ministry is expected to cable Lebanon's UN representative to submit a complaint to the UN Security Council about the Israeli aggressions and to reserve the right to call for a council meeting.

Israeli Officer Reportedly Killed in South

NC2101191990 Paris AFP in English 1909 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Jan 21 (AFP)—An Israeli colonel was killed Sunday during a shoot-out between an army patrol and an armed commando unit near the Israeli-Lebanese border in southern Lebanon, security sources reported.

The clash took place in the Lebanese village of Yarun, located two kilometers (one mile) north of the border in the Israeli-imposed "security zone," they said.

The army had intervened in a bid to oust the unit from a house it had taken over in the village, they added.

The commando, according to security sources, could have been surprised as it was preparing to infiltrate northern Israel.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed in the security zone last year, when an estimated 40 anti-Israeli operations were reported each month, notably by the secular Lebanese National Resistance Front and the pro-Iranian Islamic Resistance.

Nearly a thousand Israeli soldiers and intelligence agents have been stationed in the 850 square-kilometer (342 square-mile) zone since its creation in 1978. Israel patrols the region in collaboration with the South Lebanon Army, which it finances.

Fatah Group Claims Responsibility

NC2201101490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Fatah-The Revolutionary Council has claimed responsibility for the operation that led to the murder of an Israeli officer in the village of Yarun near Bint Jubayl yesterday. A spokesman for the front announced that the clashes between the fedayeen group and the occupation troops lasted until today.

Amal Movement Statement on Actions in South

NC1901203190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Today the Amal Movement's operations room in the south issued the following statement: Following in the footsteps of Imam al-Sadr, acting according to his religious ruling that Israel is an absolute evil and that cooperation with it is forbidden, and acting on the basis of orders issued by the Movement's command, a group of the Lebanese Resistance Brigades—Amal from the martyr commander Haj Abu-Jamal's unit detonated an explosive charge near a mechanized patrol of the agent Lahd militia consisting of an M-113 armored personnel carrier on the Dibil-Rshaf road at 1100 today. The explosion destroyed the vehicle and left all its passengers dead or wounded.

Meanwhile, the occupation and agent forces summoned reinforcements to the area, consisting of an armored personnel carrier. The mujahidin detonated a second charge near this vehicle, damaging it and killing or wounding its passengers.

Ambulances arrived at the scene of the explosions to evacuate the casualties. They were seen rushing back toward Marj 'Uyun hospital. Helicopters also flew over the area. The occupation forces intensely shelled the area with 120-mm artillery from their positions inside the occupied strip.

'Awn's Forces, Army Exchange Fire in North

NC2001110590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Michel 'Awn, commander of the military clique, created tension in the north when his men in the Jisr al-Madfun area committed acts of aggression against army positions at 1000 today. These acts of aggression developed into an exchange of gunfire between Army personnel and 'Awn's cliques.

This development occurred on the so-called day of solidarity with the north announced by 'Awn. 'Awn's organs expressed their solidarity with the north last

Saturday [13 January] by detonating three explosive devices in Tripoli, killing 1 innocent citizen and wounding 10 others.

Syrian Troops Open Fire

NC2001132790 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] At 1000 this morning, Syrian occupation troops opened fire at young civilians who were distributing leaflets near the al-Madfun roadblock. The leaflets voiced support for the people of the north on the day of solidarity with the north. The Lebanese Army personnel returned fire. A clash ensued with light- and medium-caliber weapons and artillery. The al-Madfun crossing gate was closed because of the Syrian shelling from Kafr 'Ubayda and the quarries area.

In returning fire, the Lebanese Army destroyed three Syrian occupation centers in northern al-Madfun.

At 1230, as the Syrian troops were shelling Army positions and residential areas, the Lebanese Army managed to destroy a Syrian tank which was directing its fire against the army's positions.

Security sources reported a short while ago that the Syrian occupation troops fired at citizens who arrived at the al-Madfun crossing gate after it had been reopened by the Lebanese Army. This renewal of tension led to the gate being closed again.

The Syrian occupation authority had earlier called in additional special units and deployed them in northern villages and towns. These units staged foot patrols in the region to remove the posters and slogans supporting the liberation march. They forced citizens to open their shops and return to their jobs.

We have just learned that clashes this morning between the Lebanese Army and the Syrian occupation army resulted in the destruction of a T-54 Syrian tank and a light antitank missile base and hit all Syrian advance positions. Ambulances removed a number of injured persons from the Syrian positions.

Further on Al-Madfun Fighting

NC2001115090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1132 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Clashes between the Lebanese Army and the Syrian occupation troops are continuing across the al-Madfun crossing point. Machineguns and rockets are being used in the fighting. The Syrian shelling reached residential areas on the outskirts of 'Amshit, al-Barbarah, al-Hulwah, and B'ishta. A number of shells fell into the sea.

Fighting along the al-Madfun crossing point involving machineguns and medium-caliber weapons broke out at approximately 0950. It stopped at approximately 1100, but resumed again at approximately 1230. Intermittent sniper fire has been reported along the al-Hadath al-Laylakah since 1230. The fire reached adjacent residential areas.

Attacks on Syrian Positions Reported

NC1901141090 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] In the north, the Strugglers for Freedom Organization [munazzamat al-muqawimin min ajl al-hurriyah] has claimed responsibility for an attack on a position of the Syrian occupation forces near the old tunnel in (Hiri Shikka) this morning. Two elements of the Syrian occupation forces were killed and a vehicle was damaged in the attack.

The organization vows support to the heroic Lebanese Army and announces that the blood of the Lebanese martyrs was not spilled in vain. The organization salutes General Michel 'Awn, prime minister and army commander, and pledges to continue its operations until Lebanon is liberated from all occupiers, particularly the barbaric Syrian occupiers.

Meanwhile, operations against the positions of the Syrian occupation are on the rise. During the past 24 hours several attacks were carried out against Syrian posts. A Syrian position in Tallat al-'Arab in Anfah was attacked. A Syrian ammunition depot was blown up and a (bshinka) tank was destroyed. Two Syrians were killed.

A Syrian position in western al-Shahhar was attacked. A Syrian ammunition depot was blown up and a (bshinka) tank was destroyed.

Another Syrian position in western al-Shahhar was attacked on the night of 16-17 January.

11 Syrians Killed in West Beirut Operation

NC2101131090 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Despite the oppressive measures taken by the Syrian occupation troops yesterday to confront the operations of the national resistance in the north and other areas, elements of the national resistance dealt fatal blows to the tyrannical Syrian occupation troops.

Among these heroic operations was one carried out by the Sunni Liberation Front [Jabhat al-Tahrir al-Sunniyah] yesterday against the Syrian occupation army in Spenneys in al-Rawshah in occupied West Beirut. According to informed sources, this operation killed 11 Syrians, wounded more than 30, and caused heavy material damage.

The Syrian occupation troops immediately cordoned off the area, preventing people from approaching. They stormed neighboring areas in search of the attackers.

According to reports, the Syrians have also cordoned off al-Saydani Street in Ra's Beirut and searched apartments in pursuit of those who carried out operations against their positions.

It has also been learned that the Syrian troops intensified their patrols in various areas of West Beirut. A nighttime curfew has been imposed in areas near Syrian positions and officers' living quarters.

'Violent' Shiite Clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2001092290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Violent clashes involving artillery, automatic weapons, and rockets are raging between by the Amal Movement and Hizballah along the Kafr Milki and Kafr Hatta combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Clashes between the two parties took place on the Jba', Jarju', and 'Arab Salim combat lines last night.

Hizballah Source Denies Amal Allegations

NC2001101490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] A Hizballah media source has issued a statement replying to allegations Amal made at a press conference held by a person named Milhim Qansuh. The source said: We recognize that the Amal Movement is good at spreading insults and lies, but there is a limit to lies and the facts will soon speak for themselves. In response to Amal's claim that it had uncovered a sabotage network yesterday, we would like to point out the following:

Khalil Bazzi and 'Ali al-Nada are officials in the Amal Movement, which claimed that they had been killed during the Iqlim al-Tuffah battle [as heard]. We have previously pointed out that the movement's leader had killed them himself for refusing to fight the Islamic resistance. Amal claimed that they had confessed to being Hizballah members who had plotted to assassinate some officials. We would like to ask if any investigation was held, why they were executed secretly, and why their bodies were dumped in a field. Would it not be better for Amal to support its charges?

The source added: Amal claimed it had discovered documents, forged license plates, seals, and others. It is not difficult for Amal to come up with all these things because it is the one controlling the state offices in the south. Is not Salih Faqih, the official in charge of [name indistinct] in al-Nabatiyah, an official in the movement?

The source added that the weapons Amal displayed and claimed to have seized actually belong to the movement, including 155-mm shells which the Islamic resistance does not possess. The source noted that the movement incriminated itself by displaying and claiming to have found Israeli-made 60-mm illumination rounds. Amal fired several such flares over the Islamic resistance positions. Amal wanted to distort the image of the strugglers, but this has backfired. Amal must now reveal how these flares came into the movement's possession.

The source concluded by saying that our people know who is safeguarding their interests and shedding their blood to preserve the people's dignity and who is making a living out of exploiting the people's causes within international circles. The source also denounced the campaign against Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah.

Al-Husayni on Reports of Sa'adah Resignation

NC2101125990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpts] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met yesterday and discussed the current situation. Speaker al-Husayni briefed the president and the prime minister on his recent visit to the French capital and his meetings with the Lebanese leaders who are in Paris. [passage omitted]

Commenting after the meeting on the resignation of Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah from the government, Speaker al-Husayni said that all rumors we have heard are untrue. Everybody is standing together and solidarity is being maintained so that all obstacles can be confronted together and in unity. [passage omitted]

Former Lebanese Forces Official Killed

NC1901154390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] According to a security report, this morning gunmen fired at Dr Ilyas al-Zayk as he was leaving the Ghurrah Laboratories building in al-Ashrafiyah. He was hit by three bullets and killed. The murdered man was a former Lebanese Forces official.

'Awn Speaks on 'Battle for Press Freedom'

NC1801174090 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] The popular sit-in and visits by popular and student delegations to the palace of freedom in B'abda are continuing for the 54th day. Among the students who visited the palace of freedom today were delegations from the Sayyidat al-Salam schools of al-Dawrah, the public secondary coeducational school of al-Dubayyah, the al-Mukhallis school of al-Ashrafiyah, the Mon La Salle School of 'Ayn Sa'adah, and the St Therese School of Furn al-Shubbak.

The prime minister addressed the delegations, stressing that the Lebanese press is today fighting a battle for freedom. Here is a recording of the prime minister's speech:

[Begin 'Awn recording] O Lebanese young men, today we are still fighting a battle for freedom. Today (?I am) fighting a battle for press freedom. The Lebanese press is today fighting a battle of freedom against [word indistinct]. [cheers] For the past 45 years, the press has been monopolized by a few names and no license has been issued to any newspaper published in Lebanon. We are against a press monopoly. Therefore, more licenses should be issued so that the growing number of free voices can express themselves. [cheers] They have used the press to gain privileges but we are against privileges. The press should be democratic and open to all, so that a person can express himself and his opinion at any time and by any means. The mass media are no one's property or privilege.

What is today called the press association is a false thing that must come down. The dean of the press corps does not own a newspaper. How can he become a dean? The dean of the editors owns more than 10 papers, more than 14 papers, and yet he has no right to be the dean of the editors. We have become a country of forgery and falsification and we want to get rid of this forgery and falsification. [cheers] The press union must hold new elections so that it can truly be the representative of the newspapers in accordance with democracy. The editors union must also elect new members if it wants to be recognized. The press must be Lebanese if it is to be published in Lebanon; otherwise, it should go and publish in the countries it represents. These are our laws and we must respect them. The Lebanese citizen's absolute freedom to express himself as he pleases must be preserved. However, he cannot be a spokesman for the occupation in the free areas, because this is contrary to human and legal principles, law, the people's feelings, and your will. [cheers]

O Lebanese young men, you are the freedom. Let the agents go to hell. Long live Lebanon. [end recording]

Military Jeeps Positioned Near AL-DIYAR Offices

NC1801125090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Media organs loyal to Michel 'Awn have revealed that the former army commander will soon grant licenses for new papers and magazines. He is expected to announce this move at the weekly cabinet meeting in B'abda tomorrow.

AL-NAHAR newspaper has not appeared for the 2d consecutive day. AL-BAYRAQ and L'ORIENT LE JOUR appeared but did not comply with 'Awn's instructions. AL-ANWAR partially followed 'Awn's arbitrary orders. This paper reached the stands a little later than usual because of differences among its editors.

It is worth noting that military jeeps of the internal security forces were stationed close to the AL-DIYAR offices to ensure the implementation of 'Awn's orders. It is to be recalled that 'Awn is taking that paper to court and has banned it from publication for 7 days.

Beirut Publications Defy 'Awn Instructions

NC1901194690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The test of will between Michel 'Awn and the Lebanese press entered its 3d day today. Following the suspension of the newspapers AL-BAYRAQ and AL-DIYAR, only two newspapers appeared today in East Beirut: L'ORIENT LE JOUR, which did not comply with 'Awn's instructions, and AL-ANWAR, which began appearing in two editions, one of which is for East Beirut and observes 'Awn's regulations; the other is for other Lebanese areas and acknowledges the official titles of the president of the republic and other politicians.

AL-NAHAR did not appear for the 3d consecutive day today.

Today, the Lebanese Forces suspended publishing of their magazine AL-MASIRAH for this week in keeping with the wishes of the free media officials who protest 'Awn's regulations. The management of AL-MASIRAH issued a statement saying that the magazine, which is published on Saturdays, will not appear this week in deference to the law that liberates and does not restrict, and in keeping with those principles which the magazine has set for itself since its first edition.

Phalangists, LF 'Inclined' To Close Media Organs

NC2001090090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] According to well-informed sources in the eastern area, 'Awn's decision to stifle the freedom of information was made for political and not media-related reasons. It is directed against the Lebanese Forces [LF] in a bid to compel them to take a clear stand on the al-Ta'if accord. According to the same sources, George 'Udwan [Al-Tanzim party leader and LF official] is holding intensive contacts with 'Awn, but he has not achieved any results.

The sources stressed that the LF and the Phalangist Party are inclined to shut down their media establishments, because 'Awn will not back down and because a confrontation in the eastern area is out of the question. The same sources added that outside the eastern area the issue appears to be one of freedoms, but a bigger issue is at stake inside the eastern area. The sources admit that 'Awn's measures will further entrench partition.

Gunmen Kidnap Editors Association Member

NC2001095390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Rebel officer Michel 'Awn continues to stifle freedom of information in the eastern area. At 0600 today, gunmen kidnapped colleague George Hajj, editors association board member, from his house in al-Ashrafiyah and took him to an undisclosed destination.

Further Reaction to 'Awn's Media Measure Reported

Birri Assails 'Police-Like' Measure

NC1901225490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Commenting on 'Awn's police-like measure, Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has said that 'Awn's existence is illegitimate, and whatever is built upon it is null and void. It is necessary to draw attention to the unconstitutionality of the source of the decision. Therefore, it is a big mistake to implicitly recognize 'Awn or his existence.

In a meeting with journalists this afternoon, he said that the decision to expropriate the 4th estate is null and void. 'Awn has expropriated the homeland through his expropriation of the eastern area. Gagging mouths are now one of the manifestations of his illegitimacy, he said.

Minister Rizq on 'Battle for Freedom'

NC1901225190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] In an interview with MONDAY MORNING magazine, Information and Justice Minister Edmond Rizq has affirmed that Lebanon is engaged today in a battle for its existence through the battle for freedom. He said that the most serious occurrences after the measures against the freedom of the information media were the measures against the judiciary. This is regarded as an attempt to cause a breakdown in government, which is responsible for maintaining freedom. Minister Rizq affirmed that the attack against liberties constitutes the beginning of the end of the abnormal situation.

Minister Rizq said that there is only one formula for salvation, which is the return of the state to legitimacy. He noted that those who declared their rebellion against national reconciliation and legitimacy must fall as soon as possible before they cause further damage to the national structure. He reiterated: We are a government of reconciliation, not a government of war. This means that we do not want to resort to violence because we want to avoid bloodshed, even if this will mean losing some time.

He stressed that the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee will continue to operate until a complete end to the Lebanese crisis is achieved. There is no question of the committee's suspending its operation, he said.

National Liberals Support Action

NC1901205890 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The Higher Council of the National Liberal Party held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of Engineer Dany Sham'un this morning. The council discussed the press and the uproar over the measures the legitimate authorities and the judiciary took in this respect. The council expressed dismay that this issue has been taken out of its appropriate nationalist and legal context and misconstrued to suggest that freedoms are being compromised and restricted.

The council stated that the measures are intended to correct news media policies at this critical juncture of the country's liberation battle. The council called for journalistic privileges to be reconsidered, since these have become a monopoly that contradicts the very principle of freedom.

Sha'ban Denounces Soviet Measures Against Muslims

NC2001190690 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement in Lebanon, has denounced the oppressive measures adopted by the Soviet Army against Muslims in Baku, the capital of Soviet Azerbaijan. He described these measures as abhorrent and inhumane.

Shaykh Sha'ban underlined that legal rights should be granted to Soviet Muslims who want to become part of the Muslim nation. He said: It is regrettable that Gorbachev, who previously used the logic of dialogue and flexibility with Europeans, should now resort to the army and the language of oppression against Muslims in Azerbaijan.

Shaykh Sha'ban added: The world of atheism and heresy believes that human rights are exclusively for Jews and Christians, while it keeps silent about the massacres which are being committed against Muslims by bloodsuckers.

Shaykh Sha'ban further said that peace and stability can never be established in the world through imperialist schemes against Muslims.

Reportage on Lebanese President al-Hirawi's Visit

Arrives 21 Jan

JN2101104690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon, arrived in Damascus at 1100 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic in response to an invitation by President Hafiz al-Asad. President al-Hirawi is accompanied by Speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

President Hafiz al-Asad led those welcoming President al-Hirawi at the Sahara Club.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN2101134890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon, arrived in Damascus at 1100 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad.

President al-Hirawi is accompanied by Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

President Hafiz al-Asad led those welcoming the Lebanese president at Damascus' western entrance. Al-Hirawi also was received by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. [passage omitted]

The two presidents held a meeting at Tishrin Palace. The meeting was attended on the Arab Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss attended on the Lebanese side.

Al-Asad Cited on Talks

JN2101184690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] May Kahhalah, adviser to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, met with reporters today in the presence of the doyen of Lebanese journalists. Kahhalah said the Al-Asad-Al-Hirawi summit's main goal was to entrench the trust between the two countries, because based on this, it was possible to build understanding on all points and issues the two presidents would broach in their meeting. These issues were:

1. Emphasizing the search for ways to enable the Lebanese state to restore its sovereignty over all Lebanese areas, using its own resources, and imposing legitimate authority in West Beirut as a first step, followed by moves to impose this authority over all Lebanese areas.

2. Imposing control over the borders between Syria and Lebanon on land and at sea, and preventing the illegal entry of non-Lebanese citizens into Lebanon. Entering Lebanon should be from internationally recognized borders. [sentence as heard]

3. Discussing means of implementing the al-Ta'if agreement.

Syrian Presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah said the talks dealt with fraternal relations and the Lebanese situation with a view to restoring Lebanon's legitimate, constitutional institutions and launching the national reconciliation march.

President al-Hirawi reviewed the steps and recent measures the legitimate Lebanese authorities have undertaken to restore normal life, activate the state dependencies, and spread legitimate authority over all Lebanese territories.

President al-Asad assured Al-Hirawi that Syria wants for Lebanon only prosperity and progress, and that it wants the Lebanese people to live in a calm, peaceful atmosphere of reconciliation. Syria views Lebanon as a fraternal country with whose people the Syrians are tied with sinews of brotherhood, kinship, history, geography, and common fate. Whatever pains the Lebanese people also pains the Syrians.

Al-Asad said: Syria is prepared to expend all possible efforts and assistance the Lebanese legitimate authorities might request to overcome the difficulties and continue the march on the national reconciliation path, entrenching Lebanon's legitimate bodies and implementing the al-Ta'if agreement, which was approved by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

President al-Asad voiced confidence Lebanese-Syrian cooperation will abort the enemies' attempts to prolong the anomalous Lebanese conditions.

At a special ceremony in the presidential palace, President al-Asad decorated President al-Hirawi with the Umayyah National Medal, First Class, and decorated Salim al-Huss and Husayn al-Husayni with the studded Umayyah National Medal.

Damascus TV Notes Talks

JN2101205490 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi resumed their talks at 1700 today. Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss attended for the Lebanese side, while Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim

Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minsiter Faruq al-Shar', head of the escort mission, attended for Syria.

They discussed brotherly relations and the situation in Lebanon after the latter regains its legitimate constitutional institutions and the national reconciliation march has begun.

President al-Hirawi reviewed steps recently taken by Lebanon's legitimate authorities to resume normal life, activate the state institutions, and extend legitimacy over all Lebanese territories.

President al-Asad assured President al-Hirawi that Syria wishes fraternal Lebanon prosperity and progress, and for its sons, a calm life, reassurances, and accord. He also said Syria views Lebanon as a fraternal country, whose sons are linked to the sons of Syria with all the ties of brotherhood, kinship, history, geography, and common destiny; what hurts the Lebanese hurts the Syrians.

The president said: Syria is ready to expend all possible efforts and assistance requested by the legitimate Lebanese Government to overcome difficulties, pursue the course of national reconciliation, strengthen the march of Lebanese legitimacy, and implement the al-Ta'if agreement approved by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. The president said he is confident cooperation between Syria and Lebanon can foil the enemies' attempts to maintain the anomalous conditions in Lebanon.

President al-Hirawi voiced his appreciation of the brotherly Syrian stand toward Lebanon and of the assistance Syria has extended to Lebanon on all occasions. He emphasized he was confident cooperation between Syria and Lebanon was in the interest of Lebanon and its independence, as much as it was in the interest of Syria and all Arabs. [passage omitted]

Press Welcomes Visit

JN2101082090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Damascus Will Continue To Support Lebanon by All Available Means", AL-BA'TH says in its commentary today: At the invitation of leader Al-Asad, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi today begins a visit to Damascus, during which he will conduct talks on the entire Lebanese situation. The visit undoubtedly is important and distinctive in light of the distinguished Syrian-Lebanese relations and the qualitative importance of these relations in enhancing the march of security and stability in Lebanon. This march began with establishment of the legitimate authority through the election of President Ilyas al-Hirawi, formation of the national reconciliation government, and adoption by the legitimate authority of a series of measures aimed at restoring Lebanon's cohesion and unity of people and land. Foremost among these measures are those aimed at liberating southern Lebanon from the Zionist occupation, which provides political and military cover for insurgent General Michel 'Awn.

AL-BA'TH adds: President al-Hirawi's visit to Damascus today is extremely important. The topics he will discuss with President Hafiz al-Asad will be of special importance in the current circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing, with the enemies, especially Israel, trying by all means to prevent the Lebanese people from achieving salvation. AL-BA'TH concludes: President al-Hirawi certainly will find in Damascus all welcome and support so Lebanon can return to its position as an effective member of the Arab front that antagonizes all evil forces, especially Israel.

Under the headline "Syria, the Pledge of Faithfulness", TISHRIN says in one of its commentaries today: Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi will arrive on his first visit to Damascus today at a time when the Lebanese people are yearning for salvation, unity, and peace. The visit takes its importance and significance from the distinguished relations between Syria and Lebanon and from Syria's pan-Arab role in securing Lebanon's safety and territorial integrity. The results of President al-Hirawi's visit to Syria will help achieve Lebanon's unity and enhance the march toward political solution to the Lebanese crisis. TISHRIN adds: Syria's defense of Lebanon was, and still is, proceeding from the fact such defense is the only method to foil the serious conspiracy against Lebanon, protect the country from the schemes and adventures of the betrayers and partitionists, and safeguard it against storms of destruction.

Syria, therefore, stood against partition and the continuation of war, military escalation, and the policy of killing innocent people and destroying buildings and establishments. TISHRIN concludes: Faithful as it is to its principled and pan-Arab pledge, Syria will continue to support Lebanon's unity, legitimate authority, and march toward peace and reconciliation. It proceeds from the fact the will of the Lebanese people and their nationalist, vital, honest, and effective forces is stronger than all the forces trying to abort Lebanon's march toward solution and national salvation.

Under the headline "One People in Two Countries," AL-THAWRAH stresses in one of its commentaries today relations between Syria and Lebanon virtually are unmatched by any relations between two fraternal and neighboring countries. Although Syria proceeds in all its Arab relations from the consideration the Arabs constitute one nation and have one homeland, fate, and history, its relations with Lebanon are, and will continue to be distinctive and unique. AL-THAWRAH adds: For a decade and a half, Syria was alone in shouldering its responsibility toward this fraternal country. It gave unlimited support and made great sacrifices to protect Lebanon's people, land, and unity and to foil all the

conspiracies that tried to tear it apart, threaten its unity, or endanger its interests. The Lebanese brethren have made an important achievement toward saving the country and ending its ordeal. Arab Syria is firmly and strongly supporting the fraternal Lebanese people and the country's legitimate authorities. It will continue to provide all kinds of support and backing. AL-THAWRAH concludes: Syria continues to make sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon. It is confident the march toward legitimacy, reconciliation, and unity definitely will score decisive victory and that plotters, insurgents, and wicked people only will harvest defeat and loss.

People's Assembly Speaker Returns From Moscow

JN2101063090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Damascus—A People's Assembly delegation headed by Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah returned to Damascus last night from Moscow. The delegation participated in the world symposium on environment and development for the survival of humanity, recently conducted in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

*'Sources' Allege Zahir Shah Going to Moscow

45000046 London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
1 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Sources close to the Najibullah government in Kabul have announced Moscow soon will send an official invitation to former Afghan King Muhammad Zahir Shah to visit the Soviet Union. Based on an agreement between King Zahir Shah and some of the Afghan organizations opposing the Kabul government, the Afghan king will represent these organizations in contacts which soon will be made in a European capital among parties concerned with solving the Afghanistan problem.

Soviet Diplomat on Najibullah Offer to Ex-King

BK2101142190 Hong Kong AFP in English
1409 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 21 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah has agreed to surrender power to a future interim government headed by exiled former monarch Zahir Shah, a senior Soviet diplomat said here Sunday.

Vladimir D. Kransilnikov, political counsellor at the Soviet Embassay in Islamabad, said the option was also being discussed by Soviet and U.S. officials. Addressing a press conference in this northwestern city bordering Afghanistan Mr. Kransilnikov said the solution to the Afghan problem lay in political dialogue.

The former monarch, who ruled the country for more than 30 years before being toppled in a communist backed coup in 1973, was "a symbolic figure," he said, and could play a role as chairman or president of a future interim government which should represent different sections of Afghan society. The option would be further discussed during the February 6-7 meeting in Moscow between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, he said.

Asked about reports last week in a local daily the FRONTIER POST on a meeting between fundamentalist resistance leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar and a senior aide to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, he said no direct contact had been made. But he added the chairman of the Soviet Institute of Oriental Studies Professor Yuriy Gankovskiy, who visited Islamabad in late December to represent the Soviet Union at an international seminar, might have discussed the Afghan issue with Mr. Hekmatyar. In its report on January 19 the paper said the meeting took place in Islamabad with "the consent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan," but did not name the Soviet aide or say when the meeting took place.

Pakistan is used as a base by the seven Sunni Moslem resistance groups including Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami faction.

A source close to Mr. Hekmatyar said last week that the meeting took place in December and that the question of Soviet soldiers still held captive by the mujahidin was discussed along with other topics, which he did not specify.

Paper on Hekmatyar Meeting With Gorbachev Aide

BK1901115090 Hong Kong AFP in English
1126 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 19 (AFP)—Fundamentalist Afghan resistance leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar recently met with a senior aide of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, a local newspaper said here Friday [19 January]. The English-language FRONTIER POST said the meeting took place in Islamabad with "the consent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan," but did not name the Soviet aide or say when the meeting took place.

Pakistan is used as a base by the seven Sunni Moslem resistance groups including Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction.

A source close to Mr. Hekmatyar said the meeting took place in December and that the question of Soviet soldiers still held captive by the mujahidin was discussed along with other topics, which he did not specify.

The FRONTIER POST also said one of Mr. Hekmatyar's aides held talks "last month" in West Germany with Soviet diplomats. The source could not confirm that the meeting took place, but said the number two in the Hezb Politburo, Abdul Karim Mohajirzad, was in West Germany last month.

The Soviet Embassy in Islamabad could not be reached for comment Friday.

Mr. Hekmatyar has in the last few months appeared to be acting separately from the other Sunni groups. While the other six have been trying to organise a shura (traditional assembly) in four months' time to elect a rebel parliament, Mr. Hekmatyar's spokesmen have already made it clear that the Hezb has rejected the plan as "absurd, untenable and unpracticable."

"Foreign hands" were trying to "prolong the tenure" of the Afghan Interim Government, formed by the seven Sunni groups following the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in February 1988, the Hezb Politburo said Thursday. It also said the election call was "ridiculous" and was more of a "selection" than an "election."

Mr. Hekmatyar had said in August that his party would no longer attend the interim government meetings, as long as it did not organise proper elections in Afghanistan's "liberated zones." When he made the announcement, his group was under attack for the killing of 30 members of a rival faction in Afghanistan.

At a press conference on November 18, Mr. Hekmatyar, whose group is one of the more organised rebel parties,

called for a halt to arms deliveries to both sides in the war, including those provided to the government in Kabul by the Soviet Union and those to the resistance from the United States.

In an appeal aimed at Moscow, he said that if Washington was "not prepared to stop interferences, we will stop them by our means," adding that if the Soviet Union stopped supporting President Najibullah's government "the Islamic state of Afghanistan would not become a military base for any foreign power."

Sources close to the Hezb leader said Friday that over the last few weeks several rebel commanders in Afghanistan had been replaced by influential Hezb members, normally based in Pakistan, and that Mr. Hekmatyar was also soon due to travel to Afghanistan.

Groups Accept Rebel Premier's Election Formula

BK1901153790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Professor 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, prime minister of the Afghan Interim Government [AIG], has said six groups have agreed to the latest election formula he presented Wednesday [17 January]. In an interview he said contacts have been established with other mujahidin groups, and he hopes others also will accept these proposals. He added the AIG is doing everything possible to remove misunderstandings among various mujahidin groups.

Najibullah Orders Assistance for Central Region

LD2001211190 Kabul domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The Office of the Presidency reported the following instruction has been issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, regarding assistance to the inhabitants of Hazarehjat in central Afghanistan.

Order of the president on assistance to the people of central Afghanistan:

Based on demands and assessments that have been carried out, the shortage of basic materials has been felt in the central regions of the country—Hazarehjat—and in this respect, the people are facing difficulties. Assistance to needy families of this region to prevent illness from shortages of basic goods, paticularly food, therefore is regarded as timely and essential.

In perceiving responsibility vis-a-vis the country's inhabitants and extending humanitarian assistance to the needy children, women, and elders in the country's central regions, the Presidency of the Republic of Afghanistan thus has issued the following instruction to the government of the Republic of Afghanistan to dispatch necessary amounts of basic materials including wheat, sugar, ghee, medicine, chemical fertilizer, improved sowing seeds, tents, blankets, and other basic commodities under the supervision of the existing coordination commission of the presidency on promoting affairs with Hazara nationality and the Hazara coordination central commission. They are to use the experience gained from the program of assistance to the people of northeastern regions of the country and seek assistance from the organizations and armed groups stationed in these regions, as well as active cooperation from the hazard coordination commission and then distribute these commodities to the needy people under the supervision of the existing national reconciliation commission, conisting of representatives of armed organizations and groups, social figures, clergymen, and elders.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan asks the commanders of the armed groups in the central regions of the country to assist the national reconciliation commissions in distributing government humanitarian assistance to the needy inhabitants of the above regions.

India

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives on 3-Day Visit

Arrives 21 Jan

BK2101125490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] The Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, arrived in New Delhi today on a 3-day visit. The visiting dignitary will have discussions with Mr Gujral and is scheduled to call on the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh. Mr Yaqub Khan's discussions with the Indian leaders will mainly center around the delayed 1989 SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit.

Gujral, Yaqub Khan Speak at Dinner

BK2201040190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The visiting Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, will have talks with the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, today. He is to call on the prime minister tomorrow. The discussions will mainly center on the issue of holding the delayed SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the Pakistani foreign minister in New Delhi last night, Mr Gujral said India is committed to strengthen regional cooperation among SAARC countries. He expressed India's keenness to enhance economic, commercial, and cultural exchanges with what he described as its largest and most important neighbor. India offered to take unilateral measures to ease travel restrictions between the two countries if these could facilitate the process of interaction between their people. Mr Gujral said the two countries could further normalization of their relations on the principles of the Simla Agreement.

In his reply, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan welcomed the reference to the Simla Agreement and said the positions of the two countries are divergent and critical on urgent issues.

Islamabad Radio Cites Yaqub Khan

BK2201044290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that Pakistan attaches great importance to the Simla Agreement as it conforms to the norms of inter-state conduct stipulated in the UN Charter. He was speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor in New Delhi last night by Indian Foreign Minister Mr I.K. Gujral. Responding to Mr Gujral's speech, he reciprocated the desire for improved India-Pakistan relations.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that he was visiting India on behalf of Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, who is the current chairperson of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. Apart from discussing with Mr Gujral the program of the Fifth SAARC summit, Yaqub Khan said he would review the progress in SAARC activities and consider how cooperation under the aegis of the association could be improved. He emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in the rapidly changing international environment.

Earlier, the Indian foreign minister said that his government wants to be guided by the Simla Agreement in resolving the issues that were currently being discussed. He said India was deeply interested in enhancing economic, commercial, and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Calls on Singh, Meets Gujral

BK2201092890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, called on the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, in New Delhi today. The visiting dignitary also met the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral. Besides the discussion on the delayed SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit, bilateral issues are reported to have figured during their meeting lasting over 1 and ½ hours. Senior officials from both sides joined the two ministers later.

Kashmir Governor Assumes 'All' Government Powers

BK2001082090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The new governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Jag Mohan, has assumed to himself all powers of the government, except judicial, by invoking Section 92 of the state's constitution. AIR [All India Radio] Jammu correspondent, Ajit Singh, reports that the state governor now has not only executive powers but also legislative, unlike governors in other states where legislative powers pass on to the parliament during the period of president's rule. Mr Jag Mohan has also suspended operation of some constitutional provisions relating to allocation of work among the ministries.

Meanwhile, it has been officially clarified in Jammu that the resignation of the Farooq Abdullah ministry was accepted by Mr Jag Mohan after he took over as governor and not by the former governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, as reported by a news agency.

Mr Jag Mohan held a meeting with senior government officers in Jammu last evening and reviewed the law and order situation and progress of developmental projects in the state.

Party Wants Kashmir Declared 'Disturbed Area'

BK1801162290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] says the government should send clear signals to Pakistan that India will not tolerate any aiding or abetting of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. It also wants the government to take necessary measures for the closure of the training camps for the subversives reportedly being held in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In a memorandum submitted to the prime minister, the party president, Mr L.K. Advani, suggested formation of a security zone along the border and declaration of the entire valley and some districts in Jammu as disturbed area. The memorandum said stern action should be taken to check further deterioration of the situation and for restoring law and order in the state.

Meanwhile, day curfew was lifted from Srinagar today. Some reports of bomb blasts and arson were received from some parts of the valley. In Baramula, a bomb exploded in a Road Transport Corporation bus. However, no one was injured. Another blast took place in the old court building in Anantnag, causing minor damage to the building. Reports of blasts also came in from (Kutwara) and Pulwama districts.

Reportage on 'Violent Incidents' in Srinagar

Curfew Imposed 20 Jan

BK2001125890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the former director general of police, Pir Ghulam Hasan Shah, has expressed his inability to take over the post of adviser to the governor for personal reasons. Earlier, the state governor, Mr Jag Mohan, had announced the appointment of Pir Ghulam Hasan Shah as an adviser.

In other developments in the state, curfew was imposed in Srinagar this afternoon following some incidents of violence in the city. According to PTI, seven people were injured when police opened fire in several localities of

the city. Security forces fired in the air in Jahangir Chowk, Lal Chowk, and Maisuma localities. Agencies report that seven persons were injured in bomb blasts in two buses of Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation in the city this morning.

The left parties have urged the government to call an all-party meeting immediately to tackle the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement, they asked all the parties to cooperate in the effort of solving the situation. The left parties' meeting was attended by Mr Harkishen Singh Surjeet of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Mr Indrajit Gupta and Mr M. Farooqi of the CPI, Mr Trideep Chowdhury, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], and Mr D.D. Shastri of the Forward Bloc.

Governor Visits; Army Called Out

BK2101075290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr Jag Mohan, is visiting Srinagar today to assess the law and order situation in the valley. He reviewed in Jammu this morning the situation in Srinagar city, where curfew was imposed yesterday following violent incidents.

As already reported, Army has been called out in some parts of the city to maintain law and order. The situation in the city is reported to be tense. People came out of their houses in the night defying curfew orders and shouted slogans. Two bomb explosions were reported from (Shula) in Srinagar late last night.

Two members of Parliament from Jammu and Kashmir belonging to the National Conference have expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. In a memorandum to the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, Mr P.N. Handu and Professor Saifuddin Soz have urged him to personally intervene in the matter and save the situation. They also demanded the immediate recall of the state governor, Mr Jag Mohan.

The Jammu circle of the All India Sikh Students Federation has welcomed the imposition of governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir. In a joint statement in Jammu today, the three leaders of the unit urged the governor, Mr Jag Mohan, to tackle the law and order situation in the state.

Deaths, Injuries in Police Firing

BK2101124890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 9 persons were killed and 17 others injured when security forces opened fire in different parts of Srinagar City today following violent incidents. Security forces fired when people defying curfew orders came to the streets raising slogans against alleged police excesses during the combing operation in some parts of Srinagar City.

The curfew continues in Srinagar City. It has been reimposed in Anantnag and Sopor towns. An official spokesman, however, said that the situation is under control.

Our Srinagar correspondent, quoting official sources, reports that the state government has decided to release 22 out of the 27 suspected extremists held in the recent combing operations.

Meanwhile, the state governor, Mr Jag Mohan, has appealed to the people to cooperate with the state administration in maintaining law and order. He is now in Srinagar to review the situation in the Kashmir Valley with senior officials.

In Jammu, several leaders and organizations have expressed concern over the current law and order situation in the state.

25 Dead; Shoot-at-Sight Orders

BK2101161790 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Latest reports from Kashmir say 25 people were killed and more than 60 injured as security forces opened fire to quell violent mobs that defied curfew in Srinagar city. The Army has been called out with shoot-at-sight orders, as a large group of protesters went on a rampage through the city this morning. Official reports, however, said 9 people have been killed and 20 injured. Seven people were killed in the police firing at (Kohkadal), and two others died in the crossfire following a gun battle between militants and police.

Srinagar was placed under indefinite curfew yesterday after an upsurge of violence. A riotous mob defied the curfew restriction and went on a pillage through the city, shouting anti-India slogans. Police initially fired in the air and lobbed teargas shells, and with the situation still going out of hand, fired into the crowd. An official spokesman said the situation elsewhere in the valley remained relatively peaceful and that curfew was imposed in Anantnag and Sopor as a precaution.

Police Deny Attempt on Sikh Leader's Life

BK2001161890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Excerpt] According to agency reports, the Akali Dal president, Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, escaped an attempt on his life last night at a function in village Tikriwal in Sangrur District. PTI says the incident occurred when the supporters of Mr Mann and those of Mr Rajdev Singh, MP [member of parliament] from Sangrur, clashed following allegations and counter-allegations against each other.

However, police sources at Chandigarh have denied any attempt on the life of the Akali Dal leader, Mr Mann, in

Sangrur District yesterday. The sources however confirmed that some shots were fired at the air. [passage omitted]

Cryogenic Rocket Engine Under Development

BK0701095090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] India is poised for developing an indigenous cryogenic rocket engine for future space program with the recent successful testing of a water-cooled version of a subscale engine at Mahendra Giri in Tamil Nadu. Cryogenic rocket engines use special cryogenic gases whose boiling temperatures are below minus 100 degrees celsius. They include nitrogen, oxygen, argon, neon, krypton, xenon, helium, hydrogen, and fluorine. Advances in cryogenic rocket technology will help India in developing indigenous satellite launch vehicles for which it had to depend on advanced countries like the United States and France.

Iran

Further Reportage, Comment on Soviet Azerbaijan

Foreign Ministry's Statement

LD2001211690 Tehran IRNA in English 2013 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry today urged the Soviet Government to stop its violence against the people of Azerbaijan and settle the issue through peaceful means.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses deep regret over such improper measures and seriously wants the Soviet Government to halt violent encounter with the people of Azerbaijan and resolve the issue by employing peaceful means, because the continuation of volence not only would not help solve the issue but would rather make the current obscure situation more complicated," said a statement issued by the ministry this evening.

It said that Soviet Muslims' deep-rooted link with Islam has caused Muslim Azeris to hold gatherings across Iranian border strip, demanding permission to get acquainted with their suppressed religious culture, meet their relatives and visit holy sanctuaries in Iran.

"But regrettably suspicious currents based on hostility towards Islam, launched an organised effort to turn this genuine and peaceful trend into ethnic clashes and by fuelling the ethnic violences not typical of the present situation and rooted in the past Stalinist policies, created tragic scenes of the massacre and homelessness of the innocent people," the statement added.

The statement said the plots of imperialist governments in encouraging Moscow to take biased attitudes towards various republics should not be ignored. It described this move "as a trap set in the way of the Soviet Union's new policies which not only encourages this government towards further confrontation with Muslims of this country but also makes the people and Muslims of the world disappointed at the seriousness of these policies."

Recalling the leader of the Islamic revolution's remarks earlier this week urging the Soviet leadership to avoid taking an improper position vis-a-vis the Islamic sentiments of the Soviet Muslims, the statement expressed pity that the despatch of Soviet forces to the Republic of Azerbaijan had led to the killing and wounding of many people.

Further on Statement

LD2001224090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry issued the following statement in connection with the recent political events in Soviet Azerbaijan:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The apearance of new political conditions in the Soviet Union, and the opportunity for the people to voice their deep sentiments and legitimate demands, brought the hope to world Muslims that Soviet Muslims would be able to attain their Islamic identity.

The bond between Soviet Muslims and Islam, which is deep-rooted in them, led the people of Soviet Azerbaijan to demonstrate their willingness to become familiar with their suppressed religious culture by gathering on the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and calling for an increase in travel to visit holy places and their relatives.

Unfortunately, certain dubious elements, whose ideology is based on opposition to Islam, have made a concerted effort to steer this noble and pacific movement toward sectarian clashes. And, by fanning the fire of sectarian violence, which is not peculiar to the present situation and stems from past Stalinist policies, they have created tragic scenes of innocent people being killed and losing their homes.

Under such circumstances, the conspiratorial actions of imperialist governments and Zionist media in encouraging the Soviet Union to discriminate between various republics should not be overlooked. These actions are like traps set in the path of new Soviet policies, not only encouraging further confrontation with the Muslims in that country by the government, but making Muslims and people of the world lose faith in the importance of these policies.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has carefully monitored the developments in Soviet Azerbaijan from the start. As Iran considers itself involved with the fate of world Muslims, in its contacts with the Soviet Government it has always called for self-restraint and alertness by the Soviet Government in its dealings with developments in that region. With that aim, in a speech last week the great

leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran advised the Soviet leader against making an improper approach to the Islamic sentiments of the Muslims in that country.

Unfortunately, despite these recommendations, the dispatch of troops to Soviet Azerbaijan has resulted in violent clashes which have resulted in terrible tragedies for the Muslims of Azerbaijan by causing death and injury to a number of people.

While expressing deep regrets about such erroneous actions, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran seriously asks the Soviet Government to cease its violent treatment of the people of Azerbaijan, and try to solve the existing problems through peaceful means. For not only will the continuation of violence not help solve the problems, it will make the present complicated situation even more complex.

[Signed] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Shevardnadze's Message to Velayati

NC2001065590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The Soviet charge d'affaires in Tehran met with our Foreign Ministry's director general for Eastern European affairs yesterday and handed him a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Mr Eduard Shevardnadze to Foreign Minister Mr Velayati.

IRNA reports that in this message, the Soviet foreign minister briefed Mr Velayati on the latest developments in the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic.

Baku Commentator on Stingers

LD1901211290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Baku television's political commentator, in last night's program, referred to the grievous events in Soviet Azerbaijan and criticized the central government's handling of those events. He announced: While the U.S. television network NBC broadcasts the Transcaucauses clashes to its viewers, we cannot see them until a few days later, or perhaps a few weeks later. He added: The reason for this is that broadcasting correct information to the people would reveal who is right, in which case the world and the Soviet people would learn the identity of the one who supplied the Armenian expansionists with Stinger missiles, and how they have acquired their tanks.

He continued: We are aware of the facts and the identity of the perpetrators, while the international community is unaware of those facts. The reality is that until recently, the international community was unaware that Qarabaq is situated in the heart of Azerbaijan. They were under the impression that it is a small area on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border. The issue of Qarabaq is not a small regional issue, but it encompasses a number of wide issues. We believe there are no military solutions to these issues. We believe there are no military solutions to these issues, and that they should be resolved through political negotiations.

In conclusion, Baku television's commentator remarked on the foreign countries' links with this event and condemned the U.S. Senate's intervention in that connection.

Karrubi Regrets 'Violence'

LD2101111990 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi Sunday regretted the recent events in the Soviet Azerbaijan saying "Soviet officials and leadership should know that resort to violence is not the solution to the problem of Azerbaijan".

Speaking at today's open session of the Majles, Karrubi recalled Ayatollah Khamene'i's remarks made earlier this week in connection with the recent incidents in the Soviet Azerbaijan and noted: "Obviously violence and toughness towards people will entail more serious consequences."

Ayatollah Khamene'i said in his remarks that the events were motivated by the people's Islamic zeal rather than nationalist feelings.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi expressed the hope that attention would be paid to the demands of the Azerbaijan people and that the existing problems would be solved in a "prudent, wise and peaceful" manner. "It is a matter of hesitation and suspicion as to why the West is supporting this violent move towards the Soviet Muslims," the Majles speaker remarked.

He pointed to the late Imam Khomeyni's message to the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urging him not to incline towards the West, and regretted that "we are now witnessing signs of this inclination to the West."

Arguing why the Soviet leadership had shown discrimination in its attitude towards various republics in that country, Karrubi said: "previously there had been some harsh moves in the Lithuanian Republic but the officials visited the area and talked to the people, standing their strong-worded slogans. But in Azerbaijan, they resorted to violence."

There were also discriminations about other republics which called for further attention and which were unprecedented in European republics, said Karrubi.

He expressed condolences to the Soviet Muslims and families of the victims of the recent massacres and appreciated the warm hospitality extended by Iranian Azeris to their Soviet guests.

Security Council Meets

LD2001183690 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20. IRNA—The National Security Council convened here Saturday [20 January] to review the incidents in Soviet Azerbaijan and issues relevant to Iran-Soviet border strip.

During the session, presided over by President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the council took some decisions in this regard.

Cabinet Discusses Situation

LD2101162890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] The cabinet held a session this afternon, chaired by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the session the current developments in Soviet Azerbaijan and Baku were reviewed. The government expressed regret about the use of violence in that area. In this connection the Cabinet and the president instructed the foreign minister to take serious steps to resolve the problems and prevent further bloodshed and violence.

Border Closings Announced

LD2001181290 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Bileh Savar (E. Azarbayjan), Jan. 20, IRNA—Following the declaration of martial law in Baku, capital of Soviet Azerbaijan, the military governor has announced that border areas of Bileh Savar and Astara are closed for crossing into Iran as of 18:00 hours (14:30 GMT) local time today.

The region is in the grip of unrest, and the military governor also added that Soviet forces will ban people from going towards Iran as of the declared hour.

Informed sources in the meantime said that the Bileh Savar border region was completely closed to the people by the Soviet order officers at 15:50 hours (12:20 GMT) today.

Azeris Attend Friday Prayers

LD1901194490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Regarding the arrival in Iran of Muslims from Soviet Azerbaijan, from noon yesterday until now, thousands of Soviet Azarbaijan residents have arrived in our country from various towns and districts of the neighboring region of Moghan and, today, they participated in Friday prayer ceremonies in the towns of Ardabil, Garmi, Bileh Savar, Parsabad, and Astara.

According to a Central News Unit report from Ardabil, the Soviet Azarbaijan residents, some of which had come to Iran with their families, showed an indescribable enthusiasm and excitement, and they described meeting their Iranian Muslim brothers as a lifelong wish which had now been realized.

The report states: The border inhabitants of Moghan gave the Muslims of Soviet Azarbaijan a warm welcome and they entertained them in private homes and public venues. for their part, The Muslims of Soviet Azarbaijan thanked God for being able to participate in Friday prayers ceremonies, and they expressed gratitude for the people's hospitality and the gifts of Korans and pictures of the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his noble dust be sanctified.

Based on the report, while the Muslims from Soviet Azarbaijan were embracing their Muslim Iranian brothers and weeping, they said that their only wish was the unity and solidarity of all the world's Muslims.

On the basis of the report, many of the Muslims from Soviet Azarbaijan, who came to our country yesterday, stressed before going back: If it were not for the Islamic revolution, we would have lost not only our religion but our identity.

According to a Central News Unit report from Rasht, on arrival in our Islamic homeland, the Muslims from the Soviet Union expressed great joy and happiness and, along with the Muslim residents of the town of Astara, they moved toward the town's mosalla [prayer ground] while chanting "God is great," and "There is no God but God."

The latest Rasht Central News Unit report states: The Muslims of Soviet Azarbaijan continue to go back and forth between Iran and the Soviet Union.

The Muslim inhabitants of the Soviet town of Jolfa also gathered on the bank of the Aras River today and chanted Islamic slogans. Our correspondent Honarvaran has sent us this report:

[Honarvaran] Thousands of Muslim inhabitants of the border town of Soviet Jolfa gathered on the bank of Aras River this afternoon and they met and talked to their Muslim Iranian brothers in Jolfa. In the gathering, Muslims from the border towns of Soviet and Iranian Jolfa chanted "God is great," and "Khamene'i is the leader," to show their solidarity with the Iranian people.

Many women, children, and elderly women could be seen in the gathering. And, as the gathering of the Muslim inhabitants from the Soviet Azarbaijan town of Jolfa grew by the minute, and as they were being transported to the banks of Aras River in vehicles, the demonstration of enthusiasm increased.

The Muslims from Soviet Jolfa also threw letters tied to stones and asked about one another's relatives from the other side of the Aras River.

Housing Arrangements for Azeris

LD1901195190 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Tabriz (E. Azarbaijan), Jan. 19, IRNA—Bileh Savar District, in the northeast of this province, has been crowded by Muslims coming from Soviet Azerbaijan, said reports today.

To cope with the large numbers, the governor-general has ordered housing arrangements for them. A group of visitors were housed in mosques, while others took up lodging in their relatives' houses in the 1721.3 sq. kms. district which has 10,450 population according to the latest census.

Some 5,000 Soviet Azeris had crossed into Iran to take part in the Friday prayer. Many have returned back with gifts including copies of the holy Koran and pictures of Imam Khomeyni.

Azerbaijanis on both sides of the Iran-Soviet border are Muslims, and share a common language, culture and even family ties.

For several days, the Soviet border officers are watching the Soviet Azeris shuttle back and forth to Islamic Iran, with watchful but indifferent eyes.

Bileh Savar is located west of the Soviet border city of Jalilabad. The city was the first region which witnessed public protest against local Communist officials late last December. Jalilabad has a population of 25,000 Muslims.

Mass demonstrations in Jalilabad on December 28-30 led to the flight of all ranking members of the local Communist Party as well as police and municipal officials, as a result of which the city was taken over by the people and popular committees for a few days.

Over 20,000 Azeris Cross Border

LD2001181890 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Ardabil (E. Azarbayjan), Jan. 20, IRNA—Measures have been taken to accomodate the thousands of Muslims who have crossed into the Islamic Republic from Soviet Azerbaijan. An official at the provincial governor general's office said Saturday [20 January] that a 'special headquarters' has been set up for making housing arrangements for the over ten thousand Soviet Muslims.

He said over 20,000 Soviet Azerbaijanis have crossed Astara, Garmi and Bileh Savar borders over the past two days to visit relatives in Iran. Most of the Soviet visitors then returned home, he added. At present, there are more than 100 Soviet Azerbaijanis in Ardabil, he noted.

Meanwhile, reports from Tabriz say groups of Soviet Muslims are streaming into the Islamic Republic since early Saturday.

For the past several days, it has become a routine for the Soviet to cross into the Islamic Republic in the early hours of the morning to visit their kin or exchange goods with border inhabitants and return home at dusk.

'Hundreds' of Azeris Arrive

LD2101120190 Tehran IRNA in English 1119 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Astara, E. Azarbayjan Prov., Jan. 21, IRNA—Hundreds of Soviet Muslims living in the border towns of Astarachai and Lenkron crossed into Iran through a border bridge and entered this border city for the 3rd consecutive day Sunday. As new groups including many children, women and elderly people entered this northwestern border town this morning, a Soviet helicopter began circling in the sky near the border river inside the Soviet territory.

Electricity Cut in Border Area

NC2001070090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] With the exacerbation of tension in the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, the border area opposite Iran's Pol Dasht was plunged into darkness when electricity was cut off on Friday night. Reports received from various news agencies speak of the establishment of a state of emergency in Nakhijevan and in the border area opposite Pol Dasht.

Nakhijevan TV Cut Off

NC2101063790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] IRNA reports from Pol Dasht that Nakhijevan television was cut off at 1900 yesterday when, according to unconfirmed reports, strong explosions were heard at the Nakhijevan radio and television installations.

Nakhijevan television was cut off as an announcer was interviewing residents of a village in Soviet Azerbaijan. The sound of heavy and light weapons fire could be heard in the background throughout the interview.

The report states that the clashes between troops and the Muslim inhabitants of Nakhijevan continue and the city is plunged into complete darkness.

The IRNA report, citing passengers arriving in Astara from Lenkoran in the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, states that the clashes between the Muslim people of Lenkoran and the Soviet troops are continuing in this area as well.

Papers Assail Soviet Methods

LD2101101590 Tehran IRNA in English 0739 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies Sunday carried editorial comments on the bloodshed in the Soviet Azerbaijan. There are reports on extensive

loss of civilian lives during clashes in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, between popular forces and the militarymen dispatched by Moscow to quell the popular unrest there.

"We think the situation urgently calls for high-level connections, at foreign ministers level at least between Tehran and Moscow to prevent the Azerbaijan crisis from turning into a national catastrophe for USSR," said the TEHRAN TIMES.

The daily termed as "baseless and outrageous" the accusations made by the Soviet state-run IZVESTIYA daily that Iran had supplied the Soviet Azeris with arms.

The editorial asked if Tehran has shown any shortcomings on cooperating with Moscow to bring the situation under control adding "Tehran indeed has gone out of its way to help end the Azerbaijan crisis peacefully."

Turning to 70 years of suppression of popular aspirations by the Soviet central government, the paper said "something sounds fishy" in the rise of such unexpected, illogical and extensive ethnic clashes between Armenians and Azeris.

It wondered why Mikhail Gorbachev who has shown so much tolerance towards public grievances and demands in other republics such as Lithuania, turned to harsh crackdown on the Azeris.

"Why did Moscow fail to first launch peace moves to reduce tension and make chances of bloodshed slim before the situation 'necessitated' use of force," asked the daily.

It warned that continuation of the clashes and bloodshed would only nullify glasnost and revive "strong-arm policy among Soviet leaders".

Meanwhile the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI said the West was pursuing Tehran-Moscow ties with concern and trying to persuade Moscow to commit more genocide and perform more negative acts to mar these relations. ' This is something which Moscow can surely avoid," stressed the daily.

It said the West knew that world Muslims and especially those in Iran were concerned about the fate of Soviet Muslims and the recent developments in Soviet Azerbaijan.

The Persian daily stressed that if Soviet Muslims carry Imam Khomeyni's picture, cry Allah-o-Akbar (God is great) and cross the borderlines to take part in the Friday congregational prayers "this means the Muslims' ideological solidarity which if gradually finds the right path would in no way damage national issues, mutual relations and border security. [no closing quotation mark as received]

The daily asked if Moscow considered the propaganda side of the Baku massacre, adding that if such a massacre had occurred in a European republic of the Soviet Union, the West would have surely referred to the Kremlin as follower of Stalin's path and if the victims were non-Muslims, the West would talk about "bloody perestroyka and failure of glasnost."

But today, the West through its propaganda, is leading the Kremlin leadership towards more massacre and revival of the past suppressive conditions in the Muslim-dwelling republics of the Soviet Union, it said.

The editorial warned that some people would try to take advantage of the situation and turn the events to an undesirable path.

Moscow's desire for creative peace and security and preventing anarchy is acceptable but the point is that there are much wiser and less dangerous ways to establish security, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said. Although it may require more time but it would certainly be more confident and popular.

Naturally, Moscow must be able to prevent unwanted and undesireable events but rationally this should be carried out through proper management and policies so that innocent people would not be victimised and those who had been smashed under the pressure of communism for seventy years would not be smashed under tanks now.

KAYHAN Cited on 'Ruin' of Glasnost

LD2101182790 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—The Soviets seem to have opted for arms and mass suppression as a means of quelling Muslims in the Azerbaijan Republic, instead of acting consistently with Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroyka and glasnost, said a Persian daily today.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the country which shares an identical culture with the Azerbaijani Muslims and the country that can help Moscow solve the problem, said KAYHAN.

In a retrospect glance at the bloody events in the Azerbaijan Republic in the wake of Russian military intervention, the daily made it clear that gone is the era of militarism, and the contemporary century is one of peaceful coexistence and toleration of ideas.

The commentary said 'it seems [illegible] Gorbachev would do a lot better to revise his policies in relations with Azerbaijan or else the developments in that republic will ruin his glasnost.'

It also referred to Washington's displeasure with the steadily growing relations between Tehran and Moscow, saying that the Americans have intended to somehow undermine Gorbachev's perestroyka and glasnost and pretend that the political panacea of the Soviet leader has been a total failure at home.

The daily said the unwelcome developments in Azerbaijan Friday night has unfortunately left some room for the Americans to claim that 'Mr Gorbachev is not as

successful a leader as he pretends to be and the problems in that country are yet far from being solved.'

KAYHAN recalled an official communique by the Iranian Foreign Ministry Friday, saying that the Islamic Republic hopes that the Soviet Government will use more tact and peaceful means for coping with the developments in the Azerbaijan republic and with a population to whom the entirety of the Iranian nation are deeply sympathetic.

Western Media 'Fueling' Fire

LD1901182790 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—Once again the Western media is enacting its satanic role, and this time in the Caucasus, where it is trying to fuel tensions and spark armed clashes between Soviet Azerbaijanis and the Armenians by blatantly backing the Armenian sect.

The sinister plot, has put the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan under political pressure with the great Satan openly goading Moscow to suppress the already oppressed Muslims.

Washington has implicitly recognized what it calls the right of Moscow to suppress the Muslims, and to this end, a spokesman for the U.S. State Department has called the developments in Soviet Azerbaijan as ethnic violence rather than an independent political move.

The name of the game is to bait and incite, and this mad rush of Western news agencies to portray the Azeri Muslims as thugs and villians, has been joined in by the Zionist news agency, which is trying to tease and taunt Moscow over the Caucasus affairs.

It seems that ways to suppress Muslims are being paved in the Soviet Union also. The state-run Soviet news agency 'TASS' reported as extremely tense, the situation in Baku the capital of Azerbaijan, and that local authorities were calling on people to remain calm.

According to the TASS report, 200,000 Muslims, who were forced to leave their homes in Armenia and move to Baku, and who have now nothing to lose, were leading what it described a zealous movement.

Such claims indicate that Azeri Muslims are up in arms not only aginst the Armenians but also against the Russians, the Jews and everyone else. TASS added that Muscovites believe that Muslims should be expelled from Armenian populated areas.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov, says that those responsible for initiating the attacks should be brought to justice, and this is while at least 25 Muslims have been killed when Armenians clashed with Azeris. It seems for the Soviet and Western media those who matter are only the reportedly slain Armenians and certainly not the Azeri casualties.

The story is turning out to be quite different, if one is sincere enough to look at the other side's grievances. A Soviet Azeri who entered Iran through the Pol Dasht border point, said that it was the killing of 25 Muslims by Armenians that triggered the clashes.

However, neither the Western nor Eastern mass medias have bothered to report anything in this regard.

Gerasimov by claiming that the incidents are the result of extreme nationalistic zeal, has actually tried to ignore the religious factor behind the issue.

Meanwhile, another TASS report which said that the situation in Baku has led to strong reactions in Yerevan (capital of Armenia), only substantiates the fact that such reports are nothing but meant to provoke public opinion against Muslims.

On the other hand, the Zionist media is fueling the fire and inciting Moscow to reinforce its military forces in the Caucasus, by publishing articles claiming Moscow has no control over Azerbaijan.

In order to further its own sinister ends, the illicit Zionist state believes that Moscow should utilise its forces to suppress the worsening situation.

However, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) likes to mention that the solution does not lie in fanning the flames of artificial sectarian disputes in the Soviet Union through Stalinistic methods.

Suppression is not a proper way to solve superficial disputes which do not have any historical roots, and that military means not only would not help solve the issue but would worsen it beyond means.

To prevent the situation from getting out of hand, it is advisable for all concerned to take heed that any kind of clashes in the caucasus and their aftermath would spread like wildfire among the over 70 million Muslims in the Soviet Union and the more than one billion Muslims throughout the world.

Commentary on Soviet Actions

LD2001123190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] During the past few days Soviet military forces were dispatched to the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia in order to prevent the continuation of the intense clashes and confrontations which this region is witnessing. According to reports received from the capital of the Soviet Azerbaijan, the Soviet Defense Ministry has mobilized the reservist forces in that country in order to strengthen the forces stationed in the region. At the same time, in Baku, the capital of Soviet Azerbaijan, and in other parts of the republic as well as in the Republic of Armenia, emergency regulations have been put into effect in order to prevent further violence.

While the Soviet Government is continuing its efforts to restore order in Caucasia, Western propaganda media and Western countries are trying to make the utmost use out of the present situation. In their efforts to further inflame these disturbances and in order to show their support for some of the parties to these clashes, Western sources have also played a major role in igniting the flames of the recent clashes. At the same time, by spreading certain rumors they are trying to find an excuse for casting doubts on the relations of the Soviet Union with its neighbors. However, in the view of many observers, the difficulties which have arisen in the Caucasus republics are to a great extent due to the expression of the reformist views of the people of those regions, whose Islamic sentiments had been crushed for many decades under the heavy shadow of Stalinist rule. The appearance of Gorbachev, the present Soviet leader, and the announcement of the programs of perestroyka and glasnost have, as expected, paved the way for the elimination of the black Stalinist legacy, and the people in various regions and republics in the USSR found an opportunity to raise their demands and requirements. At the same time, under the present open political climate, some of the old wounds which were believed to have healed have once again been opened.

Meanwhile, the new Soviet leadership, which has so far made every effort to follow the path of perestroyka through the creation of an open political climate under the concept of glasnost, has always insisted on the use of peaceful means for the solution of the problems which have arisen as the result of the appearance of religious, ethnic, or nationalist sentiments. This has created a climate of trust in the programs of the new leadership in the Soviet Union, which is the most important asset and the strongest weapon of perestroyka.

Gorbachev's calm and peaceful approach toward the nationalist demands of the Baltic republics, as seen in his recent trip to that region, shows the appreciation of the Soviet leadership of the necessity of paying attention to reformist demands and aspirations. In view of this experience, according to many political observers, the action of the Soviet Government in dispatching military forces to Caucasia and in declaring a state of emergency there under the present juncture cannot be regarded as an effort for reviving the memories of Stalinism in the form of the forceful solution of regional issues and the violent suppression of the religious aspirations of the Muslims. As the officials of the central government and the military commanders of the forces dispatched to Caucasia have announced, the aim of these measures is to prevent violent and armed clashes and to restore order to that region. If the aim of these measures is to create a climate free of violence and bloodshed in which the reformist demands and the religious sentiments of the Muslims can be freely expressed, these measures can help the successdful continuation of the Soviet leadership's programs.

Meanwhile, some political observers are giving vent to some expressions of anxiety: If the measures adopted by the military forces dispatched to Caucasia go beyond restraining the excesses, would they not be contrary to the goals of perestroyka? The main philosophy behind the implementation of the program of glasnost, according to the Soviet leadership, is the creation of a climate in which the peoples of various Soviet republics, through the open expression of their views and demands which were not accorded any recognition for many years, will be attracted to real and full participation in perestroyka and the achievement of its goals. This goal to which the Soviet leadership pays a great deal of attention can only be achieved through the extensive participation of the people of each region in their own fate and, ultimately, in the fate of the USSR. This is a requirement which was referred to by the Soviet leadership when they raised the possibility of the establishment of a federative system in the Soviet Union.

In view of the bitter experiences of the violent methods applied during the past decades, the point has been made quite clear by now that the solution of the recent problems in the Muslim-inhabited regions can only be sought for in political measures which will guarantee the extensive and creative participation of the Muslims. If violent military measures are resorted to, not only will they cast doubt on the fate of perestroyka, but will also eliminate any possibility for the peaceful expression of demands, and these problems will once again emerge in the future.

Baku, Nakhijevan Situation Noted

NC2001211190 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jan 90

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Text] A state of great tension still prevails in Soviet Azerbaijan, less then 24 hours after the Red Army stormed the city of Baku. Meanwhile, Nakhijevan Republic has declared its complete independence, asking for assistance to protect its inhabitants. The following report touches on this issue:

The Soviet leadership's handling of the problems of Azerbaijan raises several questions among Muslims and non-Muslims about the reasons underlying Gorbachev's decision to resort to violence in Azerbaijan, of all other republics. If Gorbachev's policy is based on openness, democracy, dialogue, and giving the opportunity to all nations and ethnic groups to express their feelings, why should perestroyka take this bloody course in Azerbaijan knowing that the conflict between Armenians and Azeris could have been resolved by other methods which enforce discipline and avoid friction between them?

In fact, the problem did not begin as one of sovereignty over the mountainous Qarabaq region but was exacerbated by it. The suppressed feelings which broke out with the issue of Qarabaq were those of Muslims who felt the burden of injustice they had suffered at the hands of pre-Gorbachev czars and communist governments.

Even if Gorbachev has inherited a burdensome legacy of problems, resorting to arms will not solve the problem. Arms only cover up problems temporarily but do not resolve them.

The decision to resort to violence with Muslims once again raises the logic of systematic methods. Have the Crusades returned? This question is frequently asked when the Muslims of the world compare the method of declaring a state of emergency in Armenia, Azerbaijan's partner in the problem, and the method of declaring a state of emergency and imposing a military government in Baku and Azerbaijan in general.

Religious affiliation becomes important when one observes the West's stand on the Soviet Government's decision to storm Baku. This reminds Muslims of the methods used against them by others and revives the issue of the relation between the Muslim world and the rest of the world, which is constantly pursuing an aggressive policy. Western governments and mass media have ignored current events in Azerbaijan, giving them a lower priority. In the meantime, the U.S Administration said it understands the Soviet Union's use of force. The Republic of Armenia was spared from the bloody onslaught, while Muslims alone had to pay the price in blood.

Therefore, experts on Soviet affairs believe that the feelings of 70 million Muslims will be estranged from the Soviet leadership and that the relationship of Islam and Muslims in the Soviet Union will continue to be in constant collision with the central government. The general atmosphere in which Muslims are living does not give them any indication of a change in Soviet policy toward them throughout different eras.

Commentary on Western Media Coverage

LD2001213190 Terhan in English to Europe 1955 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Azerbaijan events and [words indistinct] in the Western mass media. With the declaration of martial law and the arrival of thousands of military and security troops in Soviet Azerbaijan Republic's Baku, the capital city of that republic has turned into a (?totally) war-stricken region. This has been welcomed by the Western mass media and governments, especially the United States.

Contrary to their support for the pacifist and democratic trend of reform in East Europe and the (?eastern) section of the Soviet Union, the Westerners have this time openly supported a military move against the Muslim people of Azerbaijan, and, through their mass propaganda, pretend that the suppression of the Muslim people of Azerbaijan is justifiable.

There is no detailed information on the events which occur in the region, especially after the declaration of martial law and the news received here are just through the channel of the Soviet mass media. But both the officials of Azerbaijan's local government and the opposition forces say that the mass media in the capital has adopted a unilateral stance and the Westerners have gone beyond that on various (?motivations), the most important of which to be their enmity with the Muslims, and they have turned the unilateral reception of the news into open hostility towards the Muslims and their suppression.

Some Muslim people of Soviet Azerbaijan who have entered Iran from Poldasht have stated that in the recent events in Baku 25 Muslims were killed on the first day alone. But the Westerners have just reported the casualties sustained by the Armenians. And (?in times) when the autonomous Nakhijevan Republic (?is under the complete siege) of the Armenian forces and armed attacks are launched against various cities, including Ganjeh, in the words of general of (Yuriy Chatiliyan), commander of the Soviet Interior Ministry, (?when) a large number of people have been killed in Qarabaq, the Western mass media by-pass these events trying to pretend that the Armenians have been robbed. And in this manner, they try to provoke them into waging a new crusade in the Transcaucasian region. And exactly at a time when they support (?freedom-seeking) [word indistinct] in Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, these same sources suggest execution of force in Soviet Azerbaijan.

Where does this contradiction stem from? The European Parliament, in an official statement, has openly (?written) to support the Armenians. And the U.S. too, has implicitly expressed its satisfaction over the dispatch of forces to Baku [words indistinct] that order will prevail with minimum violence.

Since (?February of 1988), when more than 100 Muslim people of Azerbaijan have been killed in Qarabaq and over 160,000 of them have fled Armenia, the U.S. Government has neither expressed concern over this event or spoken a word concerning safeguarding the lives of the non-Armenian citizens in Armenia. And now that those same refugees have staged a riot in Baku, the Western press, (?creating the concern) that Moscow has no control of Soviet Azerbaijan, encouraged the Soviet Government to increase the number of its forces in the region.

What the U.S. and the West pursue in intensifying these events is to encourage tragic deeds against the Muslims; the hatred which the U.S. and the West will show whenever (?there exists) the opportunity. And now under the (?new security) of the Western mass media, Soviet Azerbaijan witnesses such events which in the event they are not approached realistically, the occurrence of a tragedy is certain. This is happening at a time when the Muslim people of Soviet Azerbaijan have no way to defend themselves, and the Western mass media (?monitored) shows that the United States and its allies will be satisfied with the emergence of a tragedy in Azerbaijan—the massacre of Muslims there.

Commentary on Soviet Approach

LD2101193590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1644 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] During the past few days, the Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia have witnessed violent and tragic scenes. The dispatch of Soviet troops to the region, in order to halt the violent clashes between the Azeris and the Armenians, has led to bloody clashes between the military forces and the people of the region, leaving hundreds dead and wounded.

This situation has raised a propaganda hue and cry in the imperialist media. The Western mass media and statesmen of the Western countries, who interpret any Soviet position which is contrary to their aims in Eastern Europe and inside the USSR as a sign of the decline of glasnost, have started to admire and endorse this particular position; that is, the harsh methods used against the Muslim republics. This is happening at a time when the Western sources, by supporting some of the warring sides, have played a significant role in fanning the flames of the recent clashes and, at the same time, by spreading baseless rumors, have tried to create pessimism and doubt in the Soviet Union's ties with its neighbors. [passage omitted]

The two different approaches adopted by the Soviet Government toward the demands made by the people in various regions of the USSR is a problem for which one cannot find a clear explanation. The programs of perestroyka and glasnost were introduced with the objective of creating an open climate, wherein the people of various regions of the USSR would feel free to express their religious or national wishes and sentiments. These sentiments took the shape of nationalist aspirations in the Baltic republics and Islamic feelings in such regions as Soviet Azerbaijan, where such feelings have been suppressed for 70 years. The object of creating an open climate was to allow the Soviet people to express their views in order to win the harmonious and honest support of all the people in various Soviet republics to advance perestroyka and its objectives. The Soviet leader has often stressed that success of the new programs depends entirely on the extensive political participation of the people of each region, enabling them to share in their own destiny and that of the Soviet Union. In fact, Gorbachev's recent announcement on the possibility of expanding a federal system in the USSR originated from his understanding of such a need.

At present, the question is whether the harsh response of the Soviet troops in the face of the Caucasian problems can be regarded as one aspect of perestroyka. Will no one doubt the interpretation of the open climate? The experience of suppressive measures during the Stalinist era showed that the solution to the problems arising from the popular feelings does not lie in crushing them; rather the solution will be found in political measures that can guarantee the extensive and creative participation of Muslims. Use of military means can extinguish the fire of the crisis only for a time; this volcano can, however, erupt in the future again. The success of perestroyka and glasnost solely depends on finding a proper and deep-rooted solution to these issues, and it is only through this approach that perestroyka can achieve its declared goals.

*Report on 6 December Majles Session

90OI0085A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Division—The Majles convened yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and later continued chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan.

In this session, following the recitation of verses from the Koran, Messrs. Sho'leh-Sa'di and Tabe', the representatives of Shiraz and Miandoab, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. The Majles then went into session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary reporter, the only item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was an examination of the legislative proposal concerning the cooperative sector of the economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran (returned from the distinguished Council of Guardians), the amendments of which were ratified.

The text of the pre-agenda speeches and the details of the discussions follow.

Dr Qasem Sho'leh-Sa'di, Deputy From Shiraz

The first pre-agenda speaker of yesterday's open session of the Majles was Dr Qasem Sho'leh-Sa'di, the deputy from Shiraz, who began by greeting all the free people on earth and honoring the pure blood of the students on 16 Azar [7 December]. He said: They were martyred like Hoseyn so that like Zeynab we can send the message of their blood, which is the realization of the slogan "Death to America," through more production and not more slogans.

He added: Great nation of Iran! Now we are in the midst of great international and domestic changes, changes that have swept through the East and disgraced communism, which relied on empty slogans, tearing down the Berlin wall, and showing that even if one becomes a superpower, conquers space, and advances in technology to a never-never land in which one's people are hungry, one is condemned to fail. It proved that if one fights human nature, even if one uses the Red Army, still one day these complexes will surface. Even Mr Gorbachev has realized it, but some of the parties still do not believe it.

He continued: Yes, the declaration of a government of work marks the end to a government of slogans and the beginning of the stage of reconstruction, hard work, and no talk. It is in this direction that television becomes like

the midday sun in bringing about domestic changes, and ultimately those in charge begin to think about thinking, which is in itself a virtue.

He also added; Our problem is not foreign currency. Rather it is competence, because we have lacked the competence to make use of these resources in order to enable the people to take steps themselves.

That is why even though the development plan is imperfect, it is a ray of hope for the poor government employee who is at a loss from the 5th day of the month, and it is good news for the sincere masses who have witnessed for 10 years in their poverty the accumulation by the supposed supporters of the downtrodden in Mafia-style foundations. It is a ray of hope for those who are downtrodden but do not wish to remain so.

He then queried: What has happened to the judicial apparatus, which does not investigate the plunder of the foundations and punish those who operate them?

When the government of work comes to power, the pressure groups and impeding factors will also begin to work. With the good intentions that have always been a calamity for Islam and Iran, at a time of revolutionary fever when the obstacles must be removed through revolutionary excitement and slogans, the revolution is stopped by those in the garb of intellectuals, and on the day of reckoning, thinking, initiatives, and construction, they form the party of slogans as radicals, unaware that our people know that empty slogans unsupported by action lead nowhere. And since these gentlemen are digging the wrong hole, at a time when we are light years away from affluence, they enter the arena with notions that poverty creates independence and affluence creates dependence, without realizing that at no time in history has poverty brought independence, rather it has created dependency. They are unaware that, as our ideology testifies, when poverty enters a house, faith departs, not to mention independence. Of course, some of the gentlemen know this, but being stripped of slogans is like being disarmed, especially for those who want to make speeches and align themselves with some guild, stratum, or class, particularly if it is intellectual and academic. Without a Koranic verse, one cannot boast of being revolutionary. And when it is repeated, they even begin to deceive themselves, and as some have come to believe that corruption and injustice must spread for the hidden Imam to reappear, some also have come to believe that poverty must continue for these gentlemen to have a Koranic verse and show off.

He continued: That is why in order to protect themselves, they shout the slogan of preserving the revolution, as if, God forbid, the revolution were about to crumble, and that is why they are wailing and concerned about it. They start a negative fight and there is no one to question them. He added:

Was it not you who monopolized most of the key positions in the country? Was it not you for whom the ends justified the means and who would not reject coercive methods? What miracle happened that suddenly made you a strong supporter of parliamentary liberties? Why is it that you spoke so much of guardianship to oppose parliamentary liberties before, and suddenly you have become democratic and turned out to be liberals? Did guardianship change? Is your goal not to create preoccupations at a given time in order to prevent the government from engaging in large-scale planning? Is the goal not to create everyday problems in order to discredit the government of Mr Hashemi?

The speaker also added: Do you consider the rule of law as contrary to being revolutionary? Why do you daily remove from the Majles the power to think and supervise the implementation of laws by offering useless proposals the rejection or approval of which will make no difference whatsoever? Today, judicial and economic security must be created so that like-minded people who have been isolated as a result of rough treatment can return, and also the investments that have been moved to the service and brokerage sector from production due to lack of security can return to their natural place and position.

He pointed out: You say that the foreign currency revenues of the plan are uncertain, and you know that the major portion of the revenues can be materialized through oil and within the framework of OPEC. Why then do you not promote the country's support of OPEC?

You despise the presence of the enemy in part of our country and know that under the present conditions the best investment is in international pressure on the Ba'thists of Iraq. Why do you not activate the foreign policy of the revolution to mobilize world public opinion? Of course, if we think that the whole world owes us something, we will be unable to comprehend the new realities and conditions.

Mr Sho'leh-Sa'idi also referred to the political changes and peaceful relations with Iran's northern neighbor (the Soviet Union), which had been clarified by the imam, and said: Can this not be a model for devising our diplomatic relations with other countries?

In another part of his speech, addressing the president, he said: Mr Hashemi, we consider the expansion of legitimate liberties to be necessary for the success of your program. What happened to freedom of speech and ideas, freedom of assembly and objectives, the law of political parties, and so on? Mr Hashemi, in implementing freedom, stability, and justice, it is necessary for the law enforcement forces to be the agents of the judicial apparatus and not vice versa.

In conclusion, the deputy from Shiraz offered some reminders to Mr Hashemi concerning attention to women's affairs and added: The chance will be lost. The young people are the bright lights of our nation. We must think of them. A development program without the proper groundwork will not succeed. Mr Hashemi, you are the author of a book on Amir Kabir, and today you

can be the Amir Kabir of Iran. We are behind you and support you in building an independent, free, thinking Iran.

Asadollah Tabe', Deputy From Miandoab

Mr Tabe', the deputy from Miandoab and Sa'indez, was the second and final pre-agenda speaker. He spoke on Resolution 598 and said:

Today, the world is amazed at the unity of the martyr-nurturing people of Iran and the officials of the regime of the Islamic Republic, who walk the line of their imam together and with one voice and do not heed the bugles and shouts of the infidels and heathens. The people of the world witness that even though more than 1 year has passed since Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, the filthy regime of Iraq continues its disruptive actions in order to, it mistakenly thinks, gain some concessions from Iran, unaware that all the people of Iran are ready, standing behind their grand leader. They have fought for years, defended the Islamic revolution with their hearts and souls, and tolerated all the hardships and shortages. But they cannot accept for one moment an inch of their Islamic nation being at the disposal of the enemy, thus deviating from the rightful, legal 1976 Algerian agreement.

The Iranian nation must be united in their presence on the scene and more alert and aware than ever before in order to break the egotism of the bloodthirsty regime of Iraq and once again, under the auspices of unity in word and obedience to the revered leader, manifest the greatness and glory of Islam and the Muslims of the world, thus removing the sweet dream of global oppression.

He then referred to parts of the 5-year plan and said: According to the 1980 census, the world population was about 4.5 billion people. If there is an annual growth of only 1.7 percent, by the year 2000 the population of the world will reach 6.2 billion people, of which about 80 percent will be in Third World countries. According to the 1976 census, the population of the world's hungry people was estimated at about 435 million, which will reach 600 million people by the year 2000.

Most importantly, the developed countries of the world, which only make up one-quarter of the world's population, produce more than half the world's grain. Even if we ignore production, we shall face essential shortages of vital foods, because 70 percent of the trade in foodstuff and 76 percent of world grains are in the hands of a few multinational companies affiliated with global oppression. On the other hand, the population of Iran is increasing at a rate of more than twice that of the world population. If this trend continues, the population of the country, which is 55 million people at the present, will surpass 100 million people in 1385 [21 March 2006-20 March 2007]. In other words, the population will increase daily by nearly 6,000 people and yearly by more than 2 million people, and their basic needs—that is, shelter, food, clothing, education, and health, treatment and athletic facilities, and other resources—will need to be provided for them. Hence, in addition to controlling the population growth, we must strive at the same time to advance the economic growth of the country, because such a population growth will result in a more rapid increase in the need for foodstuff, such that every year about 400,000 tons of wheat, 80,000 tons of rice, 90,000 tons of sugar, 60,000 tons of red and white meat, and hundreds of other agricultural goods and products will need to be produced, and if there are no resources for production, they will have to be imported. If they are imported, the enemy, with precise knowledge of the production and needs of the country for foodstuff, will easily be able to make use of the weapon of food against the oppressed, combative, and uncompromising nation as well.

In continuation, he emphasized: Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to agriculture and its materials, and the Islamic Republic is obligated to prepare the grounds for agricultural self-sufficiency and consequently the economic and political independence of the country in any way possible, before it is too late. Essentially, without economic independence, political, military, and cultural independence are meaningless. God forbid that we become so involved in day-to-day problems that we fail to pay attention to this important matter, considering the existing potential resources in the agricultural sector, including water, soil, forests, and pastures, which by contrast to underground resources such as oil and mines are not depletable and are not totally under the contol of the political games of the powerful, global Satans, but rather can be revitalized through reliance on the experience over the course of centuries of the productive forces and the existence of favorable groundwork. Any Iranian who is asked in what area we can reach economic independence in the program for economic development for the next few years will undoubtedly respond, in the agricultural sector.

Mr Tabe' continued with: The Constitution, the grand leader, and the opinion of experts are the strongest support for the realization of our goals and assurance of the success of our programs. With awareness of the great God-given capabilities and talents in the agricultural sector in providing for the needs of the society, we can be sure that the role of agriculture in achieving the goals of self-sufficiency and economic independence is of such vital importance that the agricultural sector must be regarded as central to economic development. On the other hand, the need to create constructive movements to ensure a balance between the agricultural products, to create productive jobs, and to prevent any waste justify attention to basic investments in the agricultural sector. Essentially, agricultural development without the revitalization of industry, which is dependent on agriculture, is meaningless. At the present time, because of inattention to acquiring the technology to mechanize agriculture and irrigation, of the 165 million hectares of agricultural land, only 5.5 million hectares are being irrigated, and of the 130 billion cubic meters of water in the country, only 60 billion cubic meters are usable.

The deputy from Miandoab added: By using a mechanized agricultural system, raising the level of the knowledge of farmers, and using experienced, competent, and committed managers, effective steps can be taken in production.

For example, if we were to gather wheat in our country with combines, every year the waste of 700,000 tons of wheat would be prevented, and we would even have a surplus. Consequently, every year the exit of $170 million in foreign currency would be prevented. If every year $38 million in foreign currency were allotted for the purchase of combines and every combine lasts 10 years, the exit of $1,700 million would be prevented.

Details of the Discussions

The only item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was a continuation of the discussion on the report of the special committee in regard to examining the legislative proposal on the cooperative sector of the economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This proposal was returned to the Majles by the distinguished Council of Guardians in order to amend some of its articles. Below, you shall read the amendments made by the committee in keeping with the opinions of the Council of Guardians.

The phrase "coordinating cooperative council" in Chapter 11 was deleted and replaced with "Ministry of Cooperatives," and Article 69 was amended as follows:

Article 69: In order to implement the views of the government with regard to carrying out the laws and regulations pertaining to the cooperative sector and supporting this sector, the Ministry of Cooperatives shall be established.

Note 1: The central organization of cooperatives, the rural cooperative agency, and the centers for expansion, production, and developmental services as well as other organizations operating in connection with the cooperatives shall be separated from the related ministries, and all their duties, authority, funds, budgets, property, capital, forces, personnel, and other resources shall be transferred to the Ministry of Cooperatives.

Note 2: The Ministry of Cooperatives shall be responsible to prepare within a period of 6 months within the framework of this law the organizations appropriate for the ministry without any new financial burden compared to the existing organization and have them approved by the proper authorities.

On the third line of Article 6, the phrase "coordinating council" was deleted and replaced with the word "ministry."

Note 2 of Article 8 was amended as follows:

Note 2: In multipurpose cooperatives, if membership is open to the public, unemployed members are permitted; however, the board of directors and the manager must be chosen from among the employed members.

Paragraph 5 of Article 9 was amended as follows:

5: Nonmembership in similar cooperatives.

Article 17 was amended as follows:

Article 17: Cooperative companies are companies all or at least 51 percent of whose capital is placed at the disposal of the cooperative company by members, and the government organizations and companies or those affiliated with or under the control of the government, banks, city halls, national Islamic councils, the foundation for the oppressed and other public institutions, in order to implement Paragraph 2 of Article 43, shall take steps to help provide or increase the capital of the cooperative companies through interest-free loans or any other legitimate channel, such as partnerships, limited partnerships, share cropping, leasing farms, leasing with the option to buy, conditional purchases, installment purchases, and conveyance.

Note: Should the government organizations become partners in founding cooperative companies and establishments, within a period that is agreed to by both parties upon the signing of the contract of the company, the share of government investment shall be repaid gradually, and 100 percent of the investment shall belong to the cooperative.

Article 18 was amended as follows:

Article 18: With regard to cooperative establishments and establishments all or at least 51 percent of the capital of which is provided by government ministries, organizations, and companies or those affiliated with or controlled by the government, banks, city halls, national Islamic councils, the foundation for the oppressed, and other public institutions in the form of entailed property or endowments (in accordance with the related regulations), the use by the cooperative establishment of public capital shall be subject to the related laws, the charter of the establishment and regulations, and in the event of violations of those regulations by a cooperative establishment, they can be returned.

Paragraph 4, Article 19, was amended as follows:

4: In transferring the above-mentioned units and other resources, the government may devise regulations as conditions require in following the government policies in terms of price, production, and distribution planning and securing public interests.

Paragraph 5, Article 19, was deleted.

On the third line of Article 21, the phrase "cooperative council" was deleted and replaced with the word "ministry."

Article 22 was amended as follows:

Article 22: A cooperative shall be established and registered when at least one-third of its capital is paid and, if the capital is in cash or material, when it has been appraised and submitted.

Article 24 was amended as follows:

Article 24: The financial responsibility of the members and organizations providing the capital of the cooperative companies and establishments is restricted by the amount of shares or capital, unless another arrangement has been provided in the agreement.

Article 25 and its Note 1 were amended as follows:

Article 25: In order to implement Paragraph 2 of Article 43, the government shall be responsible for providing the necessary conditions and resources for the establishment and strengthening of the cooperatives to ensure that the objectives mentioned in this paragraph are met.

Note 1: For the above-mentioned purpose, the government may, using the budget resources or banking or government security resources, place interest-free loans at the disposal of the cooperative and sell to the cooperative companies or establishments stationary or movable property or necessary equipment and resources at a fair price in cash or installments in order to establish or strengthen the cooperatives, or it may lease to them or engage in signing lease agreements with the option to buy, or resort to the measures mentioned in Article 45 to transfer such capital to them or transfer to them government companies or establishments or those affiliated with the government and banks or those confiscated and nationalized in accordance with Article 44 of the Constitution and in accordance with Articles 17, 18, and 19. The above amendments were put to a vote separately and ratified by the representatives.

The amendment regarding Note 3, Article 25, was not ratified.

Paragraph 4 of Article 26 was amended as follows:

4: After the deduction of the above-mentioned funds, the remainder of the net profit shall be divided as accepted in the charter and conditions upon the signing of the agreement.

The above-mentioned amendment was put to a vote and ratified.

Upon the proposal of Mr Ha'erizadeh, the deletion of Article 27 was ratified by the representatives.

Article 30 and its note were deleted.

On Line 2 of Note 2 of Article 38, the phrase "in the related cooperative authority" was deleted and replaced with "in the Ministry of Cooperatives."

Paragraph 9 of Article 47 was amended as follows:

9: Resolution of differences, adjudication and settlement between members of cooperatives upon the request of both parties.

Paragraph 5 of Article 55 was amended as follows:

5: Proposals and presentation of permit of the Ministry of Cooperatives (the Ministry of Cooperatives is responsible to give the necessary response within a maximum period of one month.)

On Line 2 of Paragraph 5 of Article 58, the phrase "in the coordinating council" was deleted and replaced with "in the Ministry of Cooperatives."

Note 2 of Article 58 was amended as follows:

Note 2: In Paragraphs 2, 4, and 5, the Ministry of Cooperatives will immediately declare the dissolution of the cooperative to the local office of records in accordance with the related bylaws.

On Line 1 of Note 3 of Article 58, the phrase "coordinating council" was deleted and replaced with "Ministry of Cooperatives."

On Line 1 of Article 59, the phrase "coordinating council" was deleted and replaced with "Ministry of Cooperatives."

On Line 2 of Article 61, the phrase "coordinating council" was deleted and replaced with "Ministry of Cooperatives."

In Paragraph 2 of Article 61, the phrase "coordinating council" was deleted and replaced with "Ministry of Cooperatives."

Paragraph 3 of Article 61 was amended as follows:

3: Resolution of differences, adjudication and settlement between the members and unions and between the cooperatives and unions upon the request of both parties.

Paragraph A of Article 63 was amended as follows:

A: Examination of the proposal concerning the charter and internal bylaws and their approval for final verification by the minister of cooperatives.

Article 64 was amended as follows:

Article 64: The board of directors of the chamber of cooperatives shall be formed of five members of the cooperatives, who, if possible, shall consist of the directors of the agricultural, rural, tribal, industrial, mining, urban and rural development, and distribution affairs, shall be elected for a term of 3 years by the general assembly of the representatives.

In Article 67 and its Paragraphs B and D, the phrase "coordinating council" was deleted and replaced by the word "ministry."

Article 70 was amended as follows:

(It is noteworthy that in order to adhere to the opinion of the Council of Guardians, Paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 9, 21, 24, 25, 26, and 30 were amended and Paragraphs 10 and 29 were deleted.

Article 70: The duties and authority of the Ministry of Cooperatives are:

- 1. To implement that part of the laws and regulations regarding the cooperative sector which concern the government and supervise over the implementation of the laws and regulations of the cooperative sector.
- 2. To prepare the legislative bills and bylaws of this law as well as the charters and bylaws of the cooperative companies in accordance with this law.
- 3. To attract and coordinate government and public support, aid, facilities, and resources for the cooperative sector with the cooperation of the related executive organization.
- 4. To encourage, help, and cooperate in the establishment and expansion of the cooperatives by attracting the cooperation and participation of the general public and national Islamic councils.
- 5. To create the grounds for cooperation, coordination, and assistance among the cooperatives as well as among the cooperative unions or between the cooperative sector and other economic sectors.
- 6. To help in terms of promotional, educational, cultural, technical, scientific, research, and industrial activities necessary for the cooperative sector with the cooperation of cooperative unions.
- 7. To assist cooperative establishments, companies, and unions by offering legal, financial, accounting, auditing, and other services needed.
- 8. To participate in international cooperative assemblies representing the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 9. To carry out the necessary transactions and offer services needed by the cooperative sector.
- 10. Paragraph 10 was deleted.
- 11. To implement propagation and educational cooperative programs for understanding and general promotion of the various cooperative methods and programs and to publish the books and publications necessary for cooperatives.
- 12. To guide the officials of the cooperatives in legal, financial, and administrative affairs and guide them in the use of better methods and systems.
- 13. To carry out statistical and informational research and study the activities of the cooperatives to identify their shortcomings and needs as well as the capabilities and resources to be utilized in related planning.
- 14. To coordinate the implementation of technical, administrative, financial, and other aid by related organizations when necessary for the purpose of the proper management of the cooperatives.
- 15. To creat necessary facilities for the expansion of the activities of the cooperatives in terms of production.
- 16. To procure the facilities for the export of the products of the cooperatives.
- 17. To prepare and regulate essential proposals in order to instigate the realization of the objectives stated in Articles 43 and 44 of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 18. To audit the cooperatives upon the request or complaint made by the members within the limits of the resources.
- 19. To prevent the activities of actual or legal persons using the name or the term cooperative in any manner.
- 20. To facilitate access to the needs of the cooperatives for raw materials, equipment, and goods.
- 21. To make policy and plan for the expansion and growth of the cooperative sector within the restrictions and jurisdiction of the regulations.
- 22. To provide the necessary facilities for the preparation, planning, creation, development, reconstruction, and renovation of cooperative units and supervise over them.
- 23. To provide the conditions and resources for investment in the cooperative sector in order to create cooperatives, with priority given to production cooperatives.
- 24. To devise programs and determine the procedures for credit assistance within the regulations and authority through banks and credit establishments and government aid to the cooperatives.
- 25. To participate in, create, develop, operate, and invest in cooperative companies and establishments as well as the transfer, granting, and sale to the cooperatives of government shares in the production and distribution units with regard for the content of the note to Article 17 of this law.
- 26. To accept membership in the economic council, the supreme council of industries, the monetary and credit council, the general assembly of banks, the supreme council of mines, and committees on exports and imports, as well as other assemblies, with the approval of the Cabinet.
- 27. To participate in preparing and devising the export and import regulations of the country.
- 28. To cooperate with international scientific, technical, and economic establishments and accept membership and participate in international organizations, councils, and assemblies concerned with cooperative affairs.
- 29. Paragraph 29 was deleted.
- 30. To rescind the benefits of cooperatives which act contrary to the laws and regulations of the cooperative sector or have taken actions contrary to the ratified charter.
- 31. To have the Ministry of Cooperatives prepare the executive bylaws of this law within a period of 6 months and approved by the Cabinet.

The following article is added as a new article.

In order to supervise the elections of the cooperative companies, unions, and establishments and the cooperative chamber, an assembly made up of the representatives of the Ministries of Cooperatives and Interior and

the judicial branch and two persons from the chamber of cooperatives (if the chamber exists) will be formed to be presided over by the representative of the Ministry of Cooperatives.

Note: The implemental bylaws of this article shall be proposed by the Ministry of Cooperatives and ratified by the Cabinet.

On Line 4 of Article 71, the phrase "related authority" was deleted and replaced by "the Ministry of Cooperatives."

The amendment to Article 81 stated that the note to this article was to be deleted, which was not ratified, and the following note replaced the previous note to Article 71.

Note: All cooperatives are obliged to make their charter and bylaws conform to this law within a maximum period of 6 months.

In Line 4 of Article 72, the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] was changed to 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] and 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991].

All above articles were put to a vote and ratified by the representatives.

The next session of the Majles will be held on Sunday next week.

*Report on 11 Dec 89 Majles Session

90OI0099A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Dec 89 p 5

[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Bureau—The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi and continued under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan. In this session, after recitation of some verses from the holy Koran, Messrs. Hashemzadeh-Asl and Sahmi-Hesari, deputies from Tabriz and Torbat-e Heydariyeh spoke. Later, the deputies' memos to the executive officials of the country were read and, then, Majles entered into order.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the only item for discussion on the agenda of yesterday's open session was the continuation of the investigation of the bill for the five-year program of economic, social, and cultural expansion of the Islamic Republic. The continuation of its investigation was postponed to the next session.

Following is the text of the speeches by the pre-agenda speakers and the details of discussions:

Hashemzadeh-Asl, Deputy From Tabriz

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr Hashem Hashemzadeh-Asl, the deputy from Tabriz, who initiated his speech by saying "I take God as my witness that in stating I have no motivation except what is in the best interest of our nation and country. I will simply state my personal opinion outside of all political and factional motivations." He then addressed the deputies and said: The role of the Majles in our society is not simply that of a law-making organ. Due to its high position in our society, the openness and freedom exercised behind its tribune to shape the society, towards its correction or destruction, has a profound and independent effect. Thus, there is a heavy burden of responsibility on the respected deputies which forces them to control their deeds, behavior, sayings, and attitudes. They must consider the Islamic Majles and its sacred podium as catalysts for solidarity, unity, and cohesiveness of the nation and, also, a school for graciousness and virtue, social spirituality, and a means for teaching the people. The deputies must avoid spreading division, dividing the people, and spreading anti-Islamic issues in the society. They should avoid sacrificing the interests and prestige of the Majles for individuals.

Pointing out that the deputies of the third Majles were able to get the votes of the people with the three slogans of "rule of the supreme jurisconsult, strengthening the Islamic government, and supporting the oppressed" as their principle objectives, he noted:

The deputies must be truthful in their covenant and continue with these three slogans and principles because nothing has changed in this Islamic podium. Has the Islamic government become non-Islamic? Has the rule of the Jurisconsult changed? Or, have the downtrodden and the oppressed come to a fortune that can be forgotten? Our government was Islamic before and today it is still Islamic, headed by an expert in Islam who is an honorable man, the most loyal person to our Imam and with over 18 million votes of the people backing him. Rule of the Jurisconsult, in Islamic theology, does not have levels. It is not such that one jurist is in level one and another in level sixty. According to all Islamic jurists, Jurisprudence is proven to be equal for all jurists. Therefore, Ayatollah Khamene'i enjoys the same level of Jurisprudence as the Imam did. Especially since the Imam, in a letter, has indicated that each and every Muslim is duty-bound to obey the leader who has been selected by the people's Council of Experts. This is why some alert people have made a slogan that, "Obeying Khamene'i is obeying the Imam." These are all the power and the might of the leadership and crystallization of the power of the Islamic nation, which is the cause of the unity and solidarity of the society, which should be enhanced.

Regarding the third slogan (about the oppressed people) he pointed out: The oppressed are living in the worst and most difficult conditions, more than any other time. Bureaucratic sabotage, tying up the hands of the government, and preventative policies totally contradict the slogan of support for the oppressed. Under the present conditions, a change in position and slogan is meaningless and cannot be justified. It casts doubts about ones truthfulness about the slogans one has been spreading.

Therefore, we must crush all political motivations and desires and march forward, hand in hand, under the banner of these three principles, and thus please the soul of our late Imam.

Mr Hashemzadeh-Asl then referred to the present economic problems and the people's expectations from the government of Mr Rafsanjani in the period of revitalization and reconstruction and said: In this sensitive period for our country, all the good people, the families of martyrs and combatants, all responsible officials of the country—especially the Majles deputies—must join hands to strengthen and give aid to the government. They must avoid any act that weakens the government and creates a negative atmosphere and help so that the government can eradicate these mountains of economic, social, and political problems with strength and full credibility. This is how the government can put some order into the affairs of our own people and relatively improve their living condition. It is the last hope of our nation that this innocent Islamic country can be built anew—and is adamant to achieve this—with God's help.

Everyone is duty-bound to assist the Islamic government. In these fateful times and period of reconstruction of the country, whomsoever weakens the government, sabotages its work, tries to preoccupy the government and the nation with internal differences, and prevents them from the task of reconstruction and improving the social conditions will be responsible before God, mankind, the sacred blood of the martyrs, and the holy spirit of the Imam. Such acts are in clear violation of the orders of the exalted Leadership and the everlasting guidances of the Imam, because his orders in support and for strengthening of the government are still valid and in force.

He pointed out: I am certain that if the Imam were still among us he would be the best support and backer of the president's government and would support him more than anyone else. The reason being that the crucial and sensitive time requires this and, also, the strongest, most trustworthy, and closest person to the Imam leads this government—which is the last hope of the nation and if turned to disappointment it will be very dangerous. I hope that we all obey the orders of the Imam and assist the Islamic government in the path of improving the affairs, reconstruction of the country, and solving the problems of the people. Of course, constructive criticism and friendly notices will always be useful and are separate from the issue of weakening the government.

In regard to the problems of the judicial branch he said: From this position and with all due respect I request from the National Inspector General's office, the Executive Court for Justices, the respected Prosecutor General, and, especially, the respected chief of the judicial branch, Ayatollah Yazdi, to conduct a thorough housecleaning in the judicial organization in order to clear the way for the implementation of the ways of the prophets from the misguided and wrong-doers.

In conclusion, the deputy from Tabriz expressed his gratitude and support for the recent moves in the judicial organization and said: This correct move must be undertaken more expeditiously, in a wider spectrum, and in a more revolutionary fashion. That fundamental and big problem can not be solved with ordinary and inflexible regulations. It requires swift and revolutionary action and a revolution within the judicial organization. This is the only way to clear this sacred position and alter of the prophets from undesirable and unsuitable characters. The Moslem people's dignity, lives, and all that is sacred to them must not be entrusted to these corrupt and devious individuals. However, while implementing this essential and revolutionary act of correcting the justice ministry, it is the duty of all officials, the nation, the government, and especially the Majles deputies to support and strengthen the judicial management. The human and religious duty of all of the people who are competent and qualified in legal affairs [Law]—especially those from theological centers and universities—is to rush to the aid of the judicial organization and replace the incompetent people. Otherwise, they will be responsible before God and the sacred blood of the martyrs. May God save us from embarrassment before the sacred spirit of our Imam and martyrs.

Sahmi-Hesari, Deputy From Torbat-e Heydariyeh

The second and last pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr Sahmi-Hesari from the Torbat-e Heydariyeh constituency. After praising the absent Imam and praying for the soul of the Imam, he began his speech and said: The subject of discussion is the super-powers, the criminals of the East and the West, America and England and all those whose very fabric was and is woven in opposition to and animosity against Islam and Muslims. The eight-phased Holy Crusades and the ruthless massacre of Jerusalem are clear examples of this, along with destroying hundreds and even millions whose crimes have been their belief and religion. If we witness today that the criminal America dispatches its warship to the Persian Gulf it is merely to give a signal to the revolutionary people of Iran that, "you should submit to me or will be faced with the downing of another one of your airliners resulting in the deaths of over 400 innocent people." If the British government sends several letters to the Iranian Government during a two-week period, and thus shows a green signal, it is not out of the kindness of their hearts and a sense of humanity. It merely stems from their perspective of colonialism and exploitation. Let this be a warning to the super powers that during 11 years of revolution, the people of this nation have sacrificed their children, lives, wealth, and prestige. They have not held anything back in the path of their ideology, revolution, and their sacred belief. If you bring on thousands of tanks and battleships and display your fierce might, to this nation, it is just like a mosquito or fly that pollutes the environment with the sound of their buzzing. This honorable nation will not back down. [passage omitted]

As Imam used to say, a nation who has chosen the path of the Prophet's grandchildren—which is that of bravery and freedom based on the ideology of piety and martyrdom—does not fear martyrdom.

The speaker continued: If the officials of this revolutionary and martyr-nurturing country adhere to their Islamic duties, not only America but an even bigger force cannot have treacherous designs on this country and nation.

Deploring inappropriate Islamic cover, Mr Sahmi-Hesari stated: Last evening there were some talks here about provocative dresses. The young lady unbuttons her dress and we cannot tell her to button up. These hairdos and make-up of the loose women who are associated with colonialism are stinking the beautiful scent of our revolution. It is regretful that we hear these words from behind these podiums. Are these deputies the kind of people who submit to everything you say and consider them the divine message? Do you think the Qoranic verses have lost their meaning to the point that provocative dressing has become meaningless?

If you are busy here with plans and projects, a deputy who does not see any minister, one hangs on to his cloak, one hangs on to his shirt [qaba—a kind of long gown or caftan open in front and worn only by men], one hangs on to his coat, and one to his trousers, for God's sake maintain your dignity. It is the duty of the respected president to make sure that laws are suggested and implemented. Without a doubt one says my plan has become thus and so. Do not disrupt the Majles. Maintain your freedom and dignity. Let us maintain our moral values and stand on our own feet. Let us learn from these common people who have sacrificed their children and, for over 10 years, have put up with all the atrocities committed against them by the super criminals without complaining and with patience. They did not have iron, cement, wheat, and faced with long ques for bread, meat, cheese, and many other things. These people are not the slaves of their stomachs, they are the slaves of God and He has given them this much. Why have you become like this? Let us learn the meaning of freedom from the bare-footed Arabs and disciples of the Prophet.

Details of the Discussions

The only item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was the continuation of the review of the Five-Year Plan.

Note 4: If implementation of new projects or increase in suggested projects to promote the goals of the water and agricultural programs—especially in regard to soil, water, fundamental issues, and natural resources—are deemed necessary, the government is duty-bound to allocate the required budget, from the unused credits for reconstruction, based on the recommendations of the Ministries of Agriculture, Construction Crusade, and Energy and with the approval of the Planning and Budget organization.

Note 5: The annual distribution of credits, from the fixed investments, among various provinces—during the term of the plan—must be done in such a way that at the end of the plan the availability of educational, hygienic, power distribution, road construction in rural and tribal areas, and job creation facilities for the deprived sectors are on the basis of the Overall Report for Identification of Deprived Sectors (Phase 6) of the Planning and Budget Organization and in accordance with the minimum availability to non-deprived sectors during the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990].

Notes 4 and 5 wear ratified and approved by deputies.

Note 6: In order to rejuvenate and revitalize the deprived sectors and create regional equilibrium, the government is duty-bound to act in a way that, in accordance with the specific conditions and capabilities of each region, the following acts are implemented:

a. Creating facilities to reduce finance charges on agricultural, industrial, and housing loans in deprived sectors.

b. Giving tax breaks for manufacturing jobs in deprived sectors until the end of the program.

c. Reduction in tariffs in reconstruction and public service programs such as water, electricity, telephone, and natural gas.

d. Priority in land development, construction of subsidized housing, and giving a part of the costs for the above as rebate in deprived sectors.

e. Easing of bureaucratic procedures and private sector conditions.

f. Adoption of suitable methods to provide, attract, and maintain the required work-force in deprived sectors.

g. Achieving self-sufficiency in the work force, especially in specialized fields, by implementing the following:

- 1. Covering all trainable people in deprived sectors.
- 2. Creation and expansion of boarding schools in various cross sections, teacher-training centers, and model schools.
- 3. Creation and expansion of higher education centers in urban centers of the deprived sectors or adjoining towns in order to train the required work force for each region. Increase in allocation of deprived sectors for admission to universities.

h. The Judicial branch is duty-bound to set up the necessary courts in the urban centers of the deprived sectors, and mobile courts in tribal areas.

The Collective Suggestion of Deputies From Deprived Regions

Replacement of Note 6 with this note: In order to rejuvenate and rebuild deprived sectors and to create

regional equilibrium the government is duty-bound to take appropriate measures, in accordance with the conditions and special criteria for each region, per following:

a. Creating facilities to reduce finance charges on agricultural, industrial, and housing loans in the deprived sectors by adding ½ percent to the finance charges for similar loans in other areas.

b. Giving tax breaks for manufacturing jobs in the deprived sectors until the end of the program.

c. A reduction in tariffs in reconstruction and public service programs such as water, electricity, telephone, and natural gas by adding 1 percent to the cost of similar services in other areas.

d. Priority in land development, construction of subsidized housing, and giving a part of the costs for the above as rebate in the deprived sectors by adding 4 percent to the prices of developed land and subsidized housing in other areas.

e. Easing of the bureaucratic procedure and private sector conditions, especially for reconstruction programs in the deprived sectors, by adding a 5 percent regional index in relation to the present indices.

f. Adoption of suitable methods to provide, attract, and maintain the required work-force in the deprived sectors. For this purpose, the government is duty-bound to allocate the necessary credits as of the start of 1369 [21 March 1990] in order to implement the bills passed by the Majles and the Cabinet, subject of the creation of facilities and providing fringe benefits in order to attract the work-force in the deprived sectors which was suggested by the National Employment and Personnel Management Organization.

g. Considering the priorities to select and implement social, fundamental, and public projects by allocating 20 percent of the total credits determined for the said projects in the deprived sectors. This ratio includes credits in rial and foreign exchange.

h. Foreign exchange and rial credits for reconstruction projects in the deprived sectors of the country, subject of the above, shall be considered allocated, and the government is duty-bound to provide the building material and all raw materials for factories and agricultural institutions on a priority basis.

i. Achieving self sufficiency in the work force, especially in specialized fields, by implementing the following:

- 1. Covering all trainable people in the deprived sectors.
- 2. Creation and expansion of boarding schools in various cross sections, teacher-training centers, and model schools.
- 3. Creation and expansion of higher education centers in the urban centers of the deprived sectors or adjoining towns in order to train the required work force for each region. Increase in allocation of deprived sectors for admission to universities.

j. The Judicial branch is duty-bound to set up the necessary courts in the urban centers of the deprived sectors and mobile courts in tribal areas, and within 6 months it shall present a government bill for extraordinary facilities and privileges earmarked for judges and employees in deprived sections.

k. The government is duty-bound to draw-up, within 1 year, short and long term policies for tribes and present these to the Majles.

l. In order to support the government, to resolve the executive shortcomings, and implement encouraging policies in the deprived sectors, the sums of 250 billion rials and one billion dollars shall be put at the disposal of the president. These sums can be spent, during the course of the plan, outside of the General Accounting Laws and Government Transaction Regulations by the Deprived Sectors' Inquiry Office. The annual allocation of credits shall be 1/5 of the above sums.

m. Implementation of all the above points, subject of this note, shall be the responsibility and under the supervision of the Deprived Sectors' Inquiry Office, attached to and under the supervision of the president's office.

n. Executive regulations of this note shall be prepared by the Deprived Sectors' Inquiry Office, attached to the president's office, within 3 months after the ratification of the 5-Year Plan and it shall be approved by the Cabinet.

Explanations by Mr Yusef-pur

In the context of the collective suggestion of deputies, Mr Yusef-pur stated: Creation of facilities in paragraph "a" of the commission is a general statement. The deprived regions have suffered many losses during the past 10 years. There has been many slogans for the deprived regions. Much work has been done also, however, less work has been done than there have been slogans. Therefore, we decided to add the percentages and said that ½ percent should be added to the finance charges for loans made out in other regions. For a borrower from Esfahan, Shiraz, or Mashhad ½ percent does not mean much. However, to someone who intends to invest in deprived regions the difference is noticeable because the cost of investment in these areas is high.

He added: You expanded the electrical services in the deprived regions. However, an electric meter is 11,000 tomans and, in a village of deprived people, perhaps three people can pay 11,000 tomans but the rest cannot. This is why we reduced the tariffs for reconstruction and agricultural programs.

Mr Jahangiri (In Opposition)

In opposition to this suggestion, Mr Eshaq Jahangiri emphasized: Ratification of this suggestion for the 5-Year Plan is a very dangerous issue. As a member of the Planning and Budget Commission and in view of the fact that I represent a constituency that has the most number of deprived regions in the region, due to national interest considerations and despite the fact that some parts of my constituency may benefit from some of these plans, I lean against ratification of this note. He then added: We have a series of laws that have to be taken into consideration for the approval of this plan. The suggestion presented by our brothers will indeed undermine many laws of the country and the 5-Year Plan.

Mr Jahangiri added: The cost of finance charges are allocated by the Monetary and Credit Allocation Council. Paragraph "a" of the note means that the Council should not decide on these matters any more. The brothers in the second Majles witnessed that when we introduced a note to add 2 rials to the price of something, officials of the government and the Planning and Budget Organization were giving interviews and asserting that such high prices are as a result of actions taken by the Majles. The note suggested by the brothers representing the deprived sectors will cause sever escalation of prices at a time when it is the government's policy to fight high prices. The first price escalation will be in finance charges.

Mr Jahangiri, in conclusion of his opposing statements, emphasized: We are for the deprived sector. However, this suggestion will mess up the 5-Year Plan. By ratifying this note, a plan that has taken 5 years to be put together will be destroyed in 5 minutes.

Mr Banihashemi (In Agreement)

In agreement for this note to replace the old version, Mr Banihashemi stated: In our discussions on the 5-Year Plan we must follow specific and determined principles. Slogans will never solve our problems. In our view, there are no figures and numbers in this note suggested by the Planning and Budget Commission under the headings "a", "b", "c" and "d". This is no more than a slogan for eradication of deprivation. If we intend to eradicate deprivation, then we should determine the cases and the credit allocations percentages. Time and again Mr Zanjani has pointed out, in the proposed corrections, that we must determine a datum so that it can be our fixing point. How come this issue can be considered in note 5 but not in note 6? Because figures and numbers must be identified, we also state in note 6 that certain levels for eradication of deprivation must be identified. The difference between our heading "a" and the one suggested by the commission is that ours determines a percentage. The brothers should note the differences between these two versions. Here it says, "Creation of facilities to reduce finance charges on the loans paid out for agricultural, industrial and housing projects in deprived sectors." How much should this reduction be? Our brother Mr Jahangiri claims that difficulties will arise. However, a figure, a percentage must be identified. Does the Council of Banks intend to implement this same note? If they intend to implement this, then, we should determine the amount. For example, under the heading "b" there is a mention of tax exemption and etc.... In this case the amount of tax exemption has been determined. Under the heading "c" there is mention of reduction in the fees for services such as water, electricity, telephone, and gas. In this case the same has been mentioned and determined that a 1 percent surcharge shall be added to the fees for similar services in other areas. It means that in this suggestion a mode of operation has been determined. In general, all of the articles of this suggestion match the ones suggested by the commission. However, the difference is that levels have been identified. It is on the basis of the need for identification of a datum to determine real investments and directions can be identified.

He continued: If eradication of deprivation is to be implemented and deprived sectors are to be considered for investments, we have many deprived regions which are suitable for investments—along with some that are not—but there has not been any investment in these areas because they have not be identified. It is very logical for us to set aside 20 percent of the investments, in fundamental areas, to the deprived sectors.

In conclusion, Mr Banihashemi stated: If these headings under note 6 are not closed with some figures and numbers, they will not last very long, and in the end we will see more deprivation in these sectors. We will not be able to eradicate deprivation and will not effectively take advantage of the resources available in our deprived regions. I request from our brother to keep this in mind and cast their positive votes.

The Commission Reporter

Regarding this suggestion, Mr Hadi Ghaffari, the Planning and Budget Commission reporter, said: The respected Majles should consider two points: 1) Will the Majles be pleased if it is throwing off the economic balance of the country, thinking that it is defending the deprived regions? The deprived regions will also suffer as a result of this. 2) If you have noted, we have laws on many of the points discussed here. We do not even need these. If you study the law, you will see that in the section on taxes we have the exemptions.

He then said: If you want to distract the whole country and the plan that has been worked on for so long, under the guise of supporting the deprived regions, please go right ahead.

The Government

As the spokesman for the government, in regard to this suggestion, Mr Zanjani, the administrator of the Planning and Budget Organization, stated:

If the brothers would like to put forward financial suggestions, they should also identify the source for it. In one of the notes, they have suggested a line of credit for 250 billion dollars and one billion in new credit [as published] for the deprived sectors. What is the source of these credits? In principle, I think these suggestions are incorrect from the regulatory point of view. In addition, this issue will cause inflation, because it requires borrowing and the deprived sectors will be the ones who will suffer. This same monetary policy has been announced annually by the government in accordance with the 5-Year Plan.

He then added: Credit policies are in the jurisdiction of the government. Let the government act as it sees fit. This by itself is regulating the credit system. Dictating as such will cause problems for the banking system.

After the government representative's statements the collective suggestion of the deputies from the deprived regions was put to a vote but did not pass.

Continuation of the discussion was postponed until today's session.

*Report on 17 Dec 89 Majles Session

90OI0100A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and then continued under Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat.

During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, Deputies Hejazi-Far and Arbabi-Fard, the representatives of Khoi and Ramiyn, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers, the deputies memos to the nation's executive officials, and the detailed proceedings.

Hashem Hejazi-Far, Khoi deputy

Mr Hashem Hejazi-Far, Khoi deputy, was the first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session. He discussed the joint meetings at al-Ta'if, and said: The plots of world imperialism have imposed another Camp David on the Lebanese. The acceptance of such meetings is treason, carrying them out is a crime and it will ultimately lead to the destruction of Lebanon and Palestine.

Continuing, he added: Just as worthy leadership and progressive laws are among the most important matters and effective elements in the triumph of a nation, another basic issue is unified allegiance to the leadership. On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that a mere pragmatic allegiance is not sufficient. Allegiance must wear the garb of adherence, and one must not forget for a moment the danger of foreign enemies and domestic influences, enemies who are visibly and invisibly waiting for an opportunity, so that one day they will not silence the resonant call of "God is great" in international societies.

He also noted: In the period of reconstruction, and in view of the unity of goals, unfortunately some people, in setting policies, are being deluded by apparently anti-imperialist terminology that actually bears the seeds of discord, and in the name of fighting infidelity, they relentlessly attack their real friends. They attribute goals and values only to superficial people, and they question all that is sacred by raising controversial issues. This discord will only harm Islam. It is clear that the enemy is waiting for the fragmentation of Islam.

He then explained: I plainly declare that if the clergy are divided into two classes this will actually weaken the morale of the nation, which sees the clergy as its physician and the Majles as its hope. Try not to allow differences and disagreements to end in a dispute over the clergy, for unity of the two ends of the clerical spectrum is the first step to solidarity.

In another portion of his talk, Mr Hejazi-Far discussed the Five-Year Plan. He said: Now that the Five-Year Plan is being discussed, it has given greater importance to gaining greater experience for specialists in industrial, mining, and agricultural production. On the one hand, with the new fiscal year and the issuance of a new list of prices, delayed projects have been completed, and greater importance is given to rural, deprived, and remote areas and to revitalize employment in society by attracting enormous capital investments. It is unfortunate that in the Five-Year Plan billions of rials have been allocated to the province center of West Azarbaijan Province, but no money has been allocated to carry out projects in Khoi, and the primary cause is province management. While all the requests for Khoi have been approved by the ministries and the respected officials, including the university, the college, the school, the airport, the power station, the reservoir dam project, road building, and exploiting production matters, and other things, there is no reference to these things in the plan.

Continuing his remarks, the Khoi representative added: Can this be the meaning of eliminating deprivation and oppression? Do a people who always led the way in the revolution and the war and who shone bravely at the fronts deserve all this unkindness, injustice, and sometimes the rejection of members of the Partisans of God [Hezbollahi] while violators are cultivated and encouraged by province management? Isn't this a mockery of the efforts and struggles of the people? If a nation is distrustful of some of its officials, with what spirit will it be willing to cooperate? Will forces not be lost? Do not Khoi, Maku, Bukan, and similar places have unemployment? Why are they not included in the Five-Year Plan? With regard to this I only ask Mr Hashemi's able and respected government to direct its attention to the matter of reducing deprivation and creating employment

in Khoi, and I ask him to heed the cries of the deprived and oppressed nation of Khoi.

Mr Hejazi-Far, the Khoi deputy, then read his memos to the nation's executive officials with regard to the problems of his electoral district.

Arbabi-Fard, Ramiyan deputy

The second and final pre-agenda speaker was Mr Arbabi-Fard, Ramiyan deputy. During his talk he praised the people of the cities of Tehran, Karaj, Kerman, Kuhdasht, and Kordkuy for their splendid participation in the elections.

He continued by discussing sabotage by world imperialism and dependent capitalists against Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani's government. He said:

From the day the hard-working government of the deprived and the oppressed began its work, with an old friend of the revolution and the Imam as president, world imperialism, led by the Great Satan and the dependent capitalists, has tried to keep this government from finding stability. Therefore one of their favored methods has been to regard the government of this hero of the struggle with imperialism as one favorable to relations with the West. Unfortunately some people, either unknowing or for political purposes, are spreading the line of this American plot and are obstructing progress with sabotage. For example, just when Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani's government is solving the problem of foreign exchange and driving out the domestic stock speculators, profiteers, and dependent parties, issues are raised against these projects that delay the work. Just as the plan is being presented to the Majles, people speak against it and raise problems with it. Although Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has said that there is no borrowing involved and that the Majles must approve borrowing, some people, instead of opposing it, cleverly claim that this plan involves borrowing money and that it is in the interest of the capitalists. Is it in the interest of the capitalists to open the way for participation by the people, to guide idle capital into production and to remove crippling laws and regulations in the matter of exports and imports? Explain the answers that Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani gave, but in the same way that he gave them, concerning the matter of borrowing money, so that the people can judge for themselves.

Mr Arbabi-Fard added: The rightful economic policy of the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has left the profiteers confounded. It has brought down the cost of goods, increased non-petroleum exports, raised the supply of foreign exchange, returned a significant amount of the currency in circulation to the treasury, and has not only anchored inflation but is gradually eliminating it, and all of these things are problems caused by mistaken economic policies in years past. Most of the capitalist abuses, whether real or lawful, were in the framework of hypocrite foundations and companies and based on the differences between free market and government prices. Whoever was able to obtain a share of government foreign exchange through connections or pressure could make 100 years of progress towards becoming wealthy. If, God willing, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government can solve this problem completely, or significantly reduce it, at that time the level of economic exploitation in all things will depend on supply and the management of the work leaders. This will be a field in which the real producer can grow and the overnight parasites will die. Instead of opposing the policies of the government, which is to cry out just as the capitalists are about to die, wouldn't it be better if we made it our policy to agree with and support the government, instead of unwittingly allowing the voice of the capitalists to emerge from our own throats? With one reasonable and calculated economic move, the government has been able to bring down the prices of goods by 20 percent. That means that in reality it has confiscated 20 percent of the property of the owners of the profiteering foundations and companies, and of the owners of foreign exchange and gold, luxury and hoarded goods. In 8 years, with the unstinting support of His Holiness the Imam (may his grave be sanctified) and with the government penalties law, in which you actually had the discretion of the legislative, judicial, and executive powers and even the Council of Guardians, have you been able to do such a thing in the interest of the deprived and oppressed people and to save the nation's economy? Instead, however, the way was opened for the mushroom-like growth of foundations, which make use of forest timber alongside deprived rural people living on the fringes of the forest who are not even allowed to reinforce their straw huts, they cut away the forest hectare by hectare, and they move out truckload after truckload of wood before the eyes of those deprived people.

Elsewhere in his talk, he said that he regards attacking the Islamic Republican Party as the destruction of the ramparts of the revolution. He said: Ten years ago, despite many difficulties and the heavy investment this zealous nation had made in it, the revolution created great values whose protection is one of the principles of the revolution, and attacking them is to destroy the ramparts which must protect the revolution. Sometimes this is manifested through individuals, and sometimes as a group's description of the revolution. The Imam of the nation was the crystallization of these values, and a person who had truly become accustomed to seeking his goals, and nothing was of interest to him other than carrying out his responsibilities and pleasing Almighty God. The oppressed Martyr Ayatollah Dr Beheshti was a student in the Imam's school, and it was by order of the Imam of the nation that he and his companions, who were among the students of the Imam's blessed school, were properly recognized by our nation. Without the organizational work the government of the Islamic Republic could not have brought about its administrative capability. They therefore took steps to form strong and comprehensive institutions, and they saw the axis for their beginning through the Imam. In the last 10 years we saw many institutions on the Imam's line arise

and grow from these institutions. The first place was in the reconstruction crusade at the central office of the Party of the Islamic Republic. The first official group, the Revolution Guards, was formed there.

The first term of the Majles was a defeat for traitor Bani Sadr, the liberals, the hypocrites, and hundreds of large and small mini-groups, and under it the connection was formed between the Imam's line, the Republican Party, and the Militant Clerics Association [Jame'eh Rowhaniat-e Mobarez]. The official organ of the Islamic Republican Party, meaning the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, was the loudest voice to be raised, and stood far above the opposition newspapers ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, MIZAN, and the like. It undertook to expose the counterrevolutionary mini-groups, and for this reason it was subjected to hostility from domestic and foreign enemies of the revolution. The poisonous dagger of the enemy was thrust into the body of the revolution at the meeting of Sunday 7 Tir 1360 [28 June 1981] at the central office of the Islamic Republican Party. The first and second party secretaries general, the oppressed martyr Ayatollah Dr Beheshti, and Dr Bahonar are among the revolution's great martyrs. The party's most recent secretary general, friend of the oppressed and deprived of the world, is now at the helm of the ship of the Islamic Republic, and the respected president of the republic was one of the party's founders. The great martyr Dr Ayat, the first to expose the deceitful and dependent face of Bani Sadr, was a member of the central party council.

In the same regard the speaker noted: In the year 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982] when the cry was raised that Mehdi Hashemi is a traitor and he attacked party insiders based on his resentment, the judicial officials of that time were saying that they could not do anything and that his claims were wrong. Perhaps they were right, because we saw that Mehdi Hashemi's mini-group was destroyed by order of His Holiness the Imam (may his grave be sanctified). It was during these conflicts that officials were told that all differences arise from the party, and perhaps it was necessary to say that to express opposition so that the party's work would be suspended. Therefore the founders of the party, both of whom are living martyrs of the revolution, meaning the great leader and the president, wrote a letter to His Holiness the Imam in which they listed the services of the party and proposed that the party be disbanded, and His Holiness agreed to the disbanding. This is in a just and fair environment that a person wants to disband the Islamic Republican Party, with its esteemed founders and martyrs, its countless services in the management of the revolution and its struggle against the counterrevolution and put it with the theological society and the dependent groups who compromise with the liberals. I said that this was spoken by just and fair people, but nothing other than this was to be expected from them.

Elsewhere in his talk, Mr Arbabi said: Why do you say that the legal measures by the Council of Guardians, which is the guardian of the luminous commands of the Islam of Mohammad and is one of the exalted values of the Islamic revolution, are dictatorial? Why do you discredit the toiling and sincere images of the Imam and the revolution among the people? For example, is Mr 'Askar-Owladi a capitalist? If you don't know, Mr 'Askar-Owladi was a salaried employee of the Imam. He was paid a salary of 10,000 tomans per month by the Imam (may God be pleased with him) from the Ministry of Commerce. In the month of Farvardin this year [21 March-20 April] the Imam called him and raised his salary from 10,000 tomans to 20,000 tomans and paid his salary in a lump sum through Esfand of this year [20 February 1990]. He is still paying his expenses from the salary he obtained from the Imam.

The Ramiyan and Azadshahr deputy protested the replacement of the mayor of Azadshahr. He said: Recently the governor-general of Mazandaran replaced the mayor of Azadshahr. According to the view of the governor general's judge, who repeatedly studied and reported on mayoral affairs in Azadshahr, even in the final stage of the investigation on 9/1/68 [22 November 1989], 16 days before the mayor was replaced, he said all the municipal administrative units should be encouraged and called the mayor's office a model of the eastern part of the province. Instead of being encouraged, however, the mayor was replaced. In view of his good and worthy work, the martyr-nurturing people of Azadshahr have asked the governor general of Mazandaran to keep him. Unfortunately, however, the governor general did not permit a meeting with them either, and instead of the governor general going, they sent an individual, just as I told the respected parliamentary deputy of the Ministry of the Interior. This was not an act worthy of this responsibility and I ask that this be dealt with.

Details of the Proceedings

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's public Majles session was a report from the Administrative Affairs and Employment Commission concerning the proposed law to create public relations offices for Majles deputies, returned from the respected Council of Guardians. The proposal was amended as follows:

Article 1 - To facilitate relations between the people and the Majles deputies and the recognition of regional problems, the Majles Presiding Council, to fulfill the duties of representation, requires every deputy to establish an office called the Majles deputy public relations office for each electoral district.

Note: All expenses for these offices will be paid from Majles credits.

Concerning this amendment Mr Shimia'i spoke in opposition and Mr Sahli-Hesari spoke in favor, and after a vote was taken the above amendment was approved by the deputies.

Second Item on the Agenda

The second agenda item was the report from the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission concerning the proposed law on how to implement Principle 85 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with regard to the responsibilities of the Majles speaker, returned from the Council of Guardians. This proposal was amended as follows:

Article 1 - The approval of letters, government guidelines, and enactments of the commissions mentioned in Principle 138, as well as the enactments mentioned in Principle 85 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be reported to the Majles speaker. If the speaker determines that the enactment violates the Constitution, he will give his view and the reasons for it to the government. If such enactments are in need of amendment or if they are completely in violation of the Constitution, the Council of Ministers or the appropriate ministry or commission may, on a case-by-case basis and within one week after the view of the Majles speaker is announced, amend the enactment and then issue an order for immediate suspension.

Note 1 - The Council of Ministers and each of the ministries and commissions mentioned in Principle 138 of the Constitution, in addition to sending the text and documentation of the enacted items at the request of the Majles speaker, must send the precedents, the information, and the text of the talks between the Council of Ministers and the appropriate commissions to him as quickly as possible.

Note 2 - If a difference of opinion on legal interpretation arises between the Majles speaker and the Council of Ministers or any one of the commissions or ministries, the view of the speaker of the Majles shall prevail.

Concerning this amendment, Mr Haerizadeh spoke in opposition and Mr Movahedi-Saveji spoke in support. A vote was then taken and the above amendment was approved.

Third Agenda Item

The third agenda item was the report from the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission concerning the proposed law on how to deal with judicial issues pertaining to Majles deputies and the request to return the above bill to the Expediency Discernment Council, returned from the respected Council of Guardians.

The commission expert spoke on this subject. Then Mr Karrubi said: Since this proposal has come before the Majles twice, it will be referred to the Expediency Discernment Council.

Final Agenda Item

The fourth and final agenda item was consideration of the report from the Plan and Budget Commission concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran's first economic, social, and cultural expansion plan. In this regard, Note 12 was presented and discussed.

Note 12 - In order to make housing available to the people, the government must provide the sufficient legal and credit facilities by making the appropriate authorizations and creating favorable conditions for the production of rental housing, and it must create suitable specialist and trade guild organizations for this purpose.

Concerning the note above, Deputies 'Ala, Behzadiyan, and Saleh-Abadi submitted the following proposal:

On the final line of Note 12, after the words "specialist and trade guild", the words "in the form of general corporations and cooperative companies" should be added.

After commentary from Mr Saleh-Abadi, Deputy Shahraki spoke in opposition and Deputy 'Ala spoke in support. The commission and the government also supported this proposal.

The above proposed amendment was approved by the deputies in a vote.

Continued consideration of the Five-Year Plan was postponed until the next Majles session.

Clarification

In the newspaper of Thursday 9/23/68 [14 December 1989] part of Mr Qazi-Zadeh Hashemi's pre-agenda speech was deleted. The reason is that it was a defense of one of the Tehran mid-term Majles candidates. After the paper went to press we realized that on Thursday election propaganda was forbidden. Therefore that portion of his talk, which had the tone of propaganda, was deleted. Majles and Legal Department.

Deputies Memos to the Nation's Executive Officials

- Mr Astaneh, Shazan and Sarband deputy: To the minister of health, treatment, and medical education, eliminate the medicine shortage, especially the medicine for Malta fever and syringes, and send gynecologists. Concerning settling all the UNIIMOG [United Nations Iran Iraq Military Observer Group] forces at a set distance from the border and preventing them from coming and going or settling in the cities. To the minister of petroleum, concerning installation of a gasoline pump in the city of Astaneh. To the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, attention to the deprivation of the Henduzar district and designating it as a deprived district.
- Mr Hoseyni, Bandar-e Lengeh deputy: To the management of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, bring the Bastak region in the municipality of Bandar-e Lengeh under coverage of Network Two of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic.
- Mr Rahmani, Takestan deputy: To the Documents and Deeds Registration Organization, expediting the designation of a registration representative for membership on the council mentioned in Amendment

Article 147 of the Law to Amend and Delete Articles from the Documents and Deeds Registration Law, enacted in 1310 [21 March 1931-20 March 1932]. To the minister of energy, reconstruction and repair of the motor houses for Takestan's deep wells.

- Mr Eftekhari, Fuman deputy: To the minister of petroleum, expediting the opening of gas service in the Municipality of Fuman.
- A Group of Gilan Deputies: We offer condolences to the people of Langrud, the Partisans of God [Hezbollahi], and the family on the death of Langrud's martyred deputy, Martyr Sayfollah 'Abdol-Karimi.

*Country's 5-Year Education Plan Announced

90OI0102A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Dec 89 p 3

[Interview with Dr 'Ali Akbar Sayyari by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] Educational and Artistic Service—The strong and weak points of the higher education section of the first five-year plan of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran were studied at a seminar for officials of the higher education research planning committees of the nation's universities.

This information seminar is being held at the end of this week on Wednesday and Thursday by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education to acquaint university officials with this ministry's views on the Five-Year Plan and the goals and policies of the future while studying past accomplishments in higher education.

Dr 'Ali Akbar Sayyari, consultant to the minister of culture and higher education and chairman of this ministry's education research planning committee, gave an interview to KEYHAN's university correspondent in which he discussed this committee's goals, methods, and plans. He said: In the month of Bahman last year [21 January-19 February 1988] this committee began its work attended by members of the Academic Council of Tehran Universities and a group of ministry experts, and has held 30 meetings so far. In addition, secondary commissions have held their own special sessions. The committee's primary work is to study the work of higher education from the graduate level and higher within the framework of the plans submitted by the Plan and Budget Organization.

He added: The second phase of this committee's work was devoted to preparing the first and second national higher education five-year plans. It has prepared the plan for 1368 to 1372 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994] and the second plan for 1373 to 1377 [21 March 1994-20 March 1999] based on former and present conditions, the guidelines of the Plan and Budget Organization, and intelligence resources of the KALAN [expansion unknown] office.

[KEYHAN] Please give your assessment of the past achievements in higher education.

[Dr Sayyari] Studies show that the growth in the number of students from 1348 to 1357 [21 March 1969-21 March 1978] was about 11.2 percent annually, while the rate has risen to about 15 percent in the years after 1362 (the cultural revolution) to 1367 [21 March 1983-21 March 1988]. In view of the fact that university faculties were reduced by about 3,000 members during the cultural revolution, the rapid growth in the number of students has not been proportionate to the increase in physical space, recruitment of professors, current budget allocations, and the equipping of laboratories and work places. Consequently, the qualitative indicators such as the teacher-student ratio have declined while the rate of space utilization has increased, while space has also decreased on a per-student basis. These factors have played a negative role in the quality of higher education.

[KEYHAN] What solutions have you devised for these problems in the five-year plan?

[Dr Sayyari] In the first plan, every effort has been made to bring these factors to standard levels. Planning has therefore been done based on existing resources, and we have decreased the growth in the number of students at the graduate level to 5.7 percent. Of course, in order to procure faculty needed at universities, the growth in admissions of students at the senior and doctoral graduate levels has been increased to 23 percent.

[KEYHAN] With statistics given in the five-year plan, how many new students are they accepting at the universities?

[Dr Sayyari] Planning in the committee has centered on the three areas of government residential centers, government semi-residential centers (message of light) and non-government non-profit centers. On this basis, the government universities (in the residential sector) who had 200,100 graduate students in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] have increased capacity to 264,500. The semi-residential sector will increase from 4,700 students this year to 65,500 students by the end of the five-year plan. Non-government non-profit universities also, which had a capacity of about 90,000 students in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], will increase capacity under this plan in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] to 150,000 persons. According to these figures, the total higher education capacity at the graduate levels will increase from 294,800 at the beginning to 480,000, and about 185,200 new students will find their way to the universities during the first five-year plan.

Here I will also note that with regard to faculty the existing number of 9,474 will increase to 17,320, and for this purpose programs for seniors, doctoral degrees, foreign study, scholarships, and bringing in professors from abroad have been designed.

We will also complete half-finished projects to procure educational space so that 56,000 persons can be added to the educational space.

The next question was about statistics to accept students for the senior and doctoral graduate programs and the rate of growth in educational groups, which Dr Sayyari answered as follows: Senior graduate students, who now total 7,143, will reach 20,000, and we will increase the current total of 1,740 doctoral students to 4,700. Of these, 3,000 will be in medical fields, the remainder in other areas.

The rate of growth in educational groups for the humanities at the graduate level will be 0.7 percent, 7.3 percent in medical sciences, and the highest rate of growth will be allocated to agriculture and animal husbandry, at 11 percent. Likewise, the student indicator, which is now 558 students per 100,000 population, will reach 777 by the end of the five-year plan.

[KEYHAN] What level of financial credit does the committee consider necessary to carry out the five-year plan, and to what degree does the government and the Majles conform or differ from the estimates of the Plan and Budget Organization.

[Dr Sayyari] In view of the fact that the criteria for setting and estimating budgets differ in every organization, there are certainly differences of opinion. A table prepared for this shows that for the current year's budget the figures are 745,218 billion rials from the ministry committee, 600 billion rials from the Plan and Budget Organization, 604.13 billion rials approved by the government and 649.13 billion rials approved by the Majles commission. Figures obtained for the development budget are very close to each other. From this committee the figure was 211.559 billion rials, 198.7 billion rials from the Plan and Budget Organization and approved by the government, and 213.7 billion rials approved by the Majles.

The greatest discrepancy is in the area of foreign exchange credits, estimated at $1239.5 million by the committee, $400 million proposed by the Plan and Budget Organization, $512 million approved by the government, and $600 million approved by the Majles Plan and Budget Commission.

[KEYHAN] If your proposed figures do not receive final approval, what effect will that have on the plan?

[Dr Sayyari] The figures prepared were arrived at through careful expert evaluation, and in view of the fact that the nation's personnel needs in the universities must be procured in the five-year plan. The failure to approve this budget will clearly affect our indicators, and in the long run it will produce a qualitative decline in the entire program.

[KEYHAN] In these studies, which fields of study had the highest and lowest costs per person?

[Dr Sayyari] Complete tables have been prepared for every field, and based on the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] every student in animal husbandry and agriculture cost 739,000 rials, a medical student cost 444,000 rials, and each student in humanities, social sciences and art cost 332,000 rials.

In his comments, Dr Sayyari noted that the chief goal of the first plan is to train teachers for deprived areas to strengthen education and training and permit the growth of talent in remote areas. He said: The five-year plan does not provide for the expansion of a special region. Only half-finished projects that were begun even in the years before the revolution are to be completed.

Pakistan

Bhutto Chairs Discussion on Indian Kashmir

BK2101155890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] A joint session of Parliament will be convened during the 1st week of next month to review the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir. This was decided at a high-level meeting Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto presided over in Islamabad today. Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad also attended. The situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir was reviewed at the meeting. It was decided at the meeting that the cabinet will be informed of the details on Monday, the 29th of this month.

The meeting of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council was held in Islamabad today with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the chair. The council unanimously adopted a resolution presented by Shahid Ahmad Rathod calling for a discussion on the present situation in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Presenting the resolution, Rathod referred to the courageous struggle initiated by the people of occupied Kashmir and drew attention to a UN resolution that acknowledges the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the resolution, the prime minister reiterated Pakistan's principled stand on the issue and assured the council that the Pakistani Government will support the Kashmiri people's just struggle. The prime minister emphasized that not only the Pakistani people are deeply concerned with the present situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, but it has also created a wave of anguish and grief in the entire Islamic world.

Narrating the factors that led to the movement that developed inside the Indian-occupied territory, the prime minister strongly refuted allegations that Pakistan is in any way involved in the incidents on the other side of the Line of Control.

Prime Minister Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan in his speech categorically said that the Kashmiri people in Azad Jammu and Kashmir have the right to determine their own future. He stressed the need for adopting a common attitude on the situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir. The council also dealt with some legislative matters.

Bhutto Reiterates Stand on Jammu, Kashmir Issue

BK2101143790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, the president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today and held a constructive exchange of views with her in a cordial atmosphere on the situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir. The prime minister assured him that her government is aware of the deteriorating situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir and said that the Pakistani Government and people are deeply concerned by it. She said that this situation has been the outcome of internal factors. The prime minister said that Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has gone to New Delhi for consultations on the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit, and he has been instructed to inform the Indian Government of the Pakistani Government's views and concern during his visit.

The prime minister reiterated that Pakistan's stand on the Jammu and Kashmir issue is based on the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement, which clearly acknowledged that the issue is an unresolved dispute between India and Pakistan. She said that there can be no compromise on the Pakistani Government and people's political and moral pledge on the right to self-determination issue, as this is something that concerns the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Government Watching Kashmir Situation Closely

BK1901123790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Pakistani Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan says that the present government's stand on the Kashmir issue is very clear and that Pakistan is committed to ensuring the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir according to the relevant UN resolutions. He was speaking at a seminar in Lahore yesterday.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the Pakistan Democratic Party chief, who also addressed the seminar, emphatically stated that the Kashmir issue should be raised at every world forum.

The federal minister for Kashmir affairs, Mir Baz Mohammad Khan Khetran, says Pakistan is keeping a close watch on the deteriorating situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing gatherings at Hatian Bala and Kenari in Azad Jammu and Kashmir yesterday, he expressed sympathy for those who have been martyred by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir.

Foreign Minister To Leave for India, Nepal

BK1801160290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will leave for India and Nepal on Sunday [21 January] as a special representative of the prime minister, the chairperson of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC]. He will review with the leaders of the two countries the progress made in connection with SAARC affairs and discuss with them the program of fifth SAARC summit conference. You might recall that the SAARC Ministerial Council's seventh meeting in Islamabad in November last year has authorized the prime minister, the chairperson of the SAARC, to hold consultations with the heads of state and government of SAARC countries to finalize the date for the fifth SAARC summit conference. In this connection, the foreign minister has already visited Colombo and Male and will go to Bhutan and Bangladesh soon.

Kashmiri Leader Plans Force To Aid Indian Muslims

BK2101095490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0939 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Jan 21 (AFP)—A veteran Kashmiri leader from the Pakistan side of the disputed northern state has said he plans to raise a commando force to help Moslem militants on the Indian side, the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said Sunday.

Sardar Mohammed Ibrahim, who heads the Azad (free) Jammu Kashmir Peoples' Party (AJKPP), called on Kashmiris to join his commando force saying "no goal was dearer to a true Moslem than Shahadat (martyrdom)," the official agency said.

Mr. Ibrahim also called on ex-servicemen to come forward to form a force of "10,000 commandos" to help pro-Pakistan Moslem militants in Indian Kashmir who are leading a violent campaign for secession from New Delhi.

In an emotional speech in the town of Pallandari on the Pakistan side, Mr. Ibrahim called for "concrete steps to accomplish the Kahsmiri nation's cherished desire" of breaking from India, adding that "mere prayers would not serve the purpose."

"I would myself lead my commando force across the ceasefire line to rescue the Kashmiri brethren if India did not stop atrocities and bloodshed of innocent Moslems," Mr. Ibrahim said.

APP said his speech was applauded by the crowd who chanted emotive slogans.

As the movement on the Indian side stepped up its violence this month, groups on the Pakistan side have started mobilising public opinion in favour of the militants, observers said.

Violence related to the campaign has left about 35 people dead since the start of January, more than half the number killed in the whole of 1989.

The militants launched a new phase in their campaign and stepped up violence this month by calling for a plebiscite to decide whether Kashmir stays with India or goes to Pakistan.

The frontier territory has been the subject of a dispute between India and Pakistan ever since the subcontinent gained independence from British rule in 1947 and was partitioned. The two neighbours have fought two wars over Kashmir.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, under pressure from the opposition to raise the issue of the Kashmiris' right to self-determination with India and the United Nations, had a detailed discussions with President Ghulam Ishak Khan and her senior civil and military aides on the issue, newspapers reported.

The AJKPP is the Kashmir chapter of Ms. Bhutto's ruling Pakistan Peoples' Party.

Elections in Pakistani Kashmir are slated for May 21 in which the AJKPP is challenging the ruling Azad Kashmir Moslem Conference headed by rightwing president Sardar Abdul Qayyum.

Another opposition party the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League has announced it will observe a "black day" on Friday to coincide with India's celebration of its republic day. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Voices Concern Over Azerbaijan Deaths

BK2201041890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] A Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman, commenting on the reported deaths of a large number of people in Azerbaijan's city of Baku as a result of force by the Soviet authorities, said in Islamabad yesterday that Pakistan adhered to the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. He, however, said that the people of Pakistan could not remain unaffected by the difficulties of Muslim people anywhere in the world. He said that Pakistan is deeply concerned at the loss of life in Azerbaijan. The spokesman said that the Government of Pakistan hopes that the leadership of the Soviet Union, particularly President Gorbachev, will seek to resolve the issue with the same wisdom and sagacity which the Soviet Union has demonstrated in recent months in the face of developments in Eastern Europe as well as inside the Soviet Union, and that recourse to force would be avoided.

Yaqub Khan on Foreign Policy, USSR Relations

BK1901105590 Lahore THE NATION in English 15 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[By Mariana Baabar]

[Text] Islamabad—"East Europe is witnessing powerful explosion of repressed sentiments, and demands for individual freedom, a democratically elected government and better living standards, possibly through a market-oriented economy, are pervasive and pressing," commented Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, while talking to THE NATION about the outcome of these changes in Europe and their effect on Pakistan.

"A new leadership is emerging on the scene but the process of revolution has still not crystallised as it is attached with a number of uncertainties." He further added "Nevertheless, we in Pakistan have to grasp the situation in which these changes are occurring. We have to ponder over the fact that these implications would mean for Pakistan and other similarly situated countries of the Third World."

The Foreign Minister is the seniormost official of the Bhutto government who has spoken publicly on "these winds of change". He first spoke about them in the Senate.

Commenting on the fears of declining Western interest in Asia, he said: "It is clear that focus of all Western countries is shifting and likely to shift in a more definite manner with regard to transfer of technology and allocation of economic support." In this process, besides the West, the Soviets would also ensure that these changing structures are nourished and sustained.

Turning to the US economic assistance to Pakistan, in which the US is considering sharp cuts, the Minister said: "US economic assistance is in any case likely to decline in future because of its budgetary deficits."

These views are also echoed by Congressman Stephen Solarz, who said on Saturday, "extra American aid to East Europe will of course mean pressure on our budget because we have a very large budget deficit and this will make it very difficult to increase foreign aid in future."

For Pakistan, the Foreign Minister said all this donor fatigue also highlights importance of appraisal of countries in Asia and Africa.

He said: "This means that the reappraisal of priorities have become more intensified for regional cooperation. We should have greater economic cooperation with countries of the Pacific rim, which are thriving economically. These include Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Thailand." Therefore, SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] cooperation with ASEAN and Japan, in addition to Gulf countries—Iran, Turkey and the Arab world—needs to be explored, he said.

The Minister also emphasised the need for developing closer bilateral relations with the Soviet Union, which after all is a regional power. He said: "Relations with Soviet Union should be strengthened and expanded, which is more necessary now than ever before."

The Minister made it clear that the thaw between the two superpowers implicate also that the degree of involving themselves in regional conflicts tends to diminish and as

a result hegemonistic tendencies in some bigger countries would be less inhibited. [sentence as published] "But this does not mean that we should say goodbye to friendship with the West, instead we should appreciate their limitations. Ties with the Western world should continue in other fields. What is important is the shift of emphasis," said the Foreign Minister.

To arrive at a future policy which would best suit Pakistan, the Foreign Office will take on an intense study in the form of the envoys conference. The Minister elaborated: "These envoys will come with deliberations and concentrate on theories while exposing and discussing ideas as to how best Pakistan can direct its policy to achieve national objectives."

The Foreign Minister also spoke on Pakistan's foreign policy which he termed as a success story of "how a small country with limited resources coped with two superpowers". Giving reasons, he said despite our relations with the US, we have not provided them with bases, yet we have voted for the Panamanian resolution in the UN and keeping an independent policy we have excellent relations with Palestine.

With India, he said, without compromising we want a tension-free relations, while on the other hand, we have in the face of pressure continued to have a peaceful nuclear programme.

In defence, we have managed not to become defenceless in the face of overshadowing neighbouring countries.

In spite of Afghan crisis, relations with Soviets led to the visit of Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and the Soviets have provided Pakistan with a large credit while the capacity for the Karachi Steel Mill has been doubled.

With China we have maintained our traditional ties and relations have further strengthened with the visit of the Chinese Prime Minister. In spite of the Western stance Pakistan has referred to the turmoil of summer '89 as China's internal affair.

On Afghanistan, the Foreign Office feels that there is definite change in our Afghan policy where we are in a new situation in which the Soviets are giving priority to a political settlement.

What many do not realise is that the Afghan Mujahidin are independent and Pakistan cannot force an answer on them. All Pakistan can do is help them arrive at a political solution.

Officials Condemn 'Tragedy' in Godra, Punjab

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[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Toba Tek Singh says that 1 person was killed and 35 others injured during demonstrations in Godra yesterday. The injured included 29 police officials. The press note says the tragedy occurred when the mob indiscriminately fired on the police station. They were protesting against the murder of a guard by robbers in the city. However, an ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN report says that 2 persons were killed and 40 injured.

Khwaja Tariq Rahim, federal minister for parliamentary affairs; Ahmad Saeed Awan, minister of state for information and broadcasting; and Malik Mushtaq Awan, minister of state for housing, have condemned the incident and policies of the Punjab government. In a joint statement in Islamabad yesterday, they expressed grave concern over the killing of innocent people and peaceful citizens who were protesting against lawlessness and anarchy in the province. They said the police are being used by the Punjab chief minister to crush his political opponents while neglecting the law and order situation.

Sri Lanka

Minister: JVP Used Amnesty International Funds

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[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, says that aid donors in giving aid to governments consider mainly the need which is sought to be fulfilled with their aid. The quantum depends on the strength of the case which is made out by the aid recipients.

Replying to the opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike's statement to the Foreign Correspondents Association about donors linking aid to the violation of human and fundamental rights, Mr Wijeratne said that her allegation seemed like [words indistinct] advice to donors by opposition politician for her own ends.

The foreign minister told newsmen yesterday at the cabinet news briefing that it is unpatriotic and it is designed to inflict further hardship on the people. In his reply, Minister Wijeratne further said that aid donors are concerned about human rights violations, such as genocide and antidemocratic measures. He added that Sri Lanka's aid donors who have given assistance so generously will be monitoring the actions of the government. They understand fully the need for effective action to counter insurrection and attempts to topple by force a democratically elected government. They have applauded Sri Lanka's commitment to democracy and the handling of a very complicated and difficult situation.

Mr Wijeratne pointed out that Mrs Bandaranaike and her party acted in an irresponsible manner toward the welfare of the people and the development of the country. He recalled that she was never worried about the burdens that the people had to carry out as the result of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] subversion. He noted that not a single opposition party supported

the government to counter the insurrection. The all-party conference convened by the president to resolve national issues through consensus was boycotted by some opposition parties.

Industries Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe told newsmen that money from the human rights organizations had been used to fund the terrorist activities. The minister was commenting on the statement by the opposition leader. He added that Amnesty International funds were used for propaganda and the evil work of the JVP. Minister Wijeratne stated that Sri Lanka's security situation has been brought under control since leaders of the front were arrested or killed in the military crackdown last year.

Minister on JVP-Amnesty International Contact

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[Text] The minister of industries, Ranil Wickremasinghe, says that the minister of foreign affairs and he himself answered certain questions regarding Amnesty International at a cabinet press briefing last week. Referring to his statement at the press briefing on Thursday [18 January], Mr Ranil Wickremasinghe observed that an organization such as Amnesty International should obtain a full report before responding since foreign correspondents write up only parts of the interview which are of interest to them.

A news release issued by the Ministry of Industries points out that, according to the information received, certain supporters of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] with strong connections to Amnesty International contacted the organization after the press briefing and requested the denial. The minister added that Amnesty International's rush to respond seems to corroborate this information.

Mr Wickremasinghe called for a full report of this statement by the organization before any further clarification. The minister points out that the foreign correspondents had written the story after the press briefing and then filed the reports with the news agencies. He added that the earliest release of the news story would have been on Thursday afternoon for broadcasting, late Thursday afternoon for news agencies, and Friday morning for newspapers. The statement by the Amnesty International spokesman in regard to the press briefing appeared in the news services on Friday and was available in the evening in Sri Lanka for publications in the newspapers.